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Should our courts close for vacation?

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India and China to keep dialogue channels open

The 17th round of senior-level military talks was held on December 20 'in an open, constructive manner', 10 days after the two Armies clashed in the Yangtse area of Arunachal Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and China held the 17th round of Corps Commander-level talks on December 20, at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side, during which they agreed to continue dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a "mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

The talks – which were not announced ahead of time, unlike in the past – came 10 days after soldiers of the two Armies clashed at the Yangtse area in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh, resulting in injuries on both sides.

Keeping peace: A file photo of Army personnel carrying out drills near the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. PTI

Building on the progress made after the last meeting on July 17, 2022, the two sides exchanged views on the resolution of the relevant issues along the Line of Actual Control in the western sector in an "open and constructive manner," the MEA said. "They had a frank and in-depth discussion, keeping in line with the guidance provided by the State Leaders to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest which would help in restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC and enable progress in bilateral relations," it stated.

CONTINUED ON
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'Both nations not patrolling several points as agreed'

Dinakar Peri
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As several patrolling points in east Ladakh remain inaccessible to Indian troops more than two years after the Galwan clash, a source in the defence establishment told *The Hindu* that after disengagement, in some well-known areas, neither side is patrolling, as per the understanding reached during talks.

CONTINUED ON
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Karnataka makes face mask mandatory in closed spaces

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday reintroduced the mandatory face masking rule in closed spaces, and has advised maintaining social distancing for outdoor Christmas and New Year celebrations. Hospitals have been directed to mandatorily test for COVID-19 all persons admitted with ILI and SARI.

Wearing of mask is compulsory in spaces such as restaurants, cinemas, buses, and trains, including metro. FILE PHOTO

Following the recommendations by the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and guidelines by the Centre in the light of COVID-19 surge in other countries, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai held a meeting with officials, TAC members, and Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar in Belagavi on Thursday.

The guidelines followed an advisory issued by the Centre directing event organisers to ensure compulsory wearing of mask in all indoor and closed spaces, such as pubs, bars, and restaurants, cinemas, buses, and trains, including metros, shopping malls, offices, etc. This should be followed strictly, particularly by elderly, and those with comorbidities. People have been advised to celebrate Christmas and New Year outdoors.

The State has also directed district officials and BBMP authorities to ramp up testing and ensure vaccine availability and review clinical facilities in terms of beds, drugs, manpower in government hospitals.

Officials have been directed to make available adequate testing teams. All symptomatic persons, especially contacts of positive cases, should be compulsorily tested. All symptomatic persons, who test positive, should be encouraged to follow isolation and treatment as per established protocols, according to the guidelines.

CONTINUED ON
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NEARBY

CM set to hold talks on quota

BELAGAVI
The Panchamasali Linagayat leaders, who are seeking reclassification of the subsect under 2A of OBC list for enhanced reservation in education and employment, claimed that the State government would be accepting their demand.

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Start-up policy gets Cabinet nod

BELAGAVI
The Cabinet approved the Karnataka Start-up Policy, 2022-27, which proposes to establish 50 new-age innovation network centres – 35 in IT/electronics and 15 in bio-technology institutions of higher learning. » Page 6

METROPLUS » PAGE 5

'Boundary row with Maharashtra a closed chapter'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Thursday unanimously adopted a resolution, asserting that the boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka is "a closed chapter" as 66 years have passed since the Mahajan commission, which resolved the dispute, was formed, and people of both the States have lived cordially over the decades.

Before moving the resolution, CM Basavaraj Bommai launched a counter-attack on Maharashtra's Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut for his remark that they would "invade" Karnataka on the lines of China invading India. Mr. Bommai warned him of legal action and said that use of such uncivil language was shocking.

CONTINUED ON
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'45-acre land linked to A. Raja attached in Coimbatore'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached 45 acres of land worth about ₹55 crore in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore allegedly held in the name of a "benami" company of former Union Telecom Minister A. Raja.

According to the ED, Mr. Raja, during his tenure as the Union Minister of Environment & Forests from 2004 to 2007, had granted environmental clearances to a major, BSE-listed real-estate company based in Gurugram.

"During the PMLA [Prevention of Money Laundering Act] investigation, the ED found that the real-estate company has given kickback to A. Raja as quid pro quo for awarding the environmental clearance, in the garb of land commission income in the hands of one 'benami' company of A. Raja," said the ED statement.

Mr. Raja incorporated the firm in 2007 in the name of family members and his close family friend "to park the proceeds of crime", the ED said.

CBI CHARGESHEET
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Audit finds Tokyo games cost more than organiser reported

20 The percentage by which the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics cost more than the final figure reported by the organising committee, according to Japan's audit board. The Games cost 1.7 trillion yen ($12.9 billion), up from the 1.42 trillion yen reported earlier this year. The 2013 bid estimated the event would cost just 734 billion yen, but the costs ballooned. AFP

Non-operational lignite-based thermal projects in India

5.86 In GW, projects that are non-operational, out of the total 210.6 GW coal and lignite-based thermal power generation capacities in the country, Power Minister R.K. Singh said in the Lok Sabha. The Minister told the House that out of 5.86 GW non-operational plants, one plant, Bela Thermal Power Station (270 MW), was revived on October 2, 2022. PTI

Cambodian opposition figures convicted in the latest mass trial

36 The number of Cambodian opposition figures, including exiled leader Sam Rainsy, were handed out jail terms in the latest mass trial against opponents of strongman ruler Hun Sen. Eleven politicians from Rainsy's now-dissolved Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) were sentenced to seven years in jail and stripped of their rights to stand for office for five years. AFP

Multi-state cooperative societies under liquidation this year

71 The number of multi-state cooperative societies under liquidation this year, with the maximum number of them located in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi and Odisha, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. Out of 71 multi-cooperative societies, 15 of them are located in Rajasthan, followed by 13 in Maharashtra, and 11 each in Delhi and Odisha, the data showed. PTI

India signs FTAs and preferential pacts to promote exports

13 The number of free trade agreements (FTAs) India has signed with its trading partners to ensure greater market access for domestic goods and to promote exports, Union minister Anupriya Patel said. India has recently signed three such agreements with Mauritius, the UAE and Australia. It has also signed six preferential pacts. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The uncontrolled re-entries of satellites

What are the different stages of a rocket launch? How does uncontrolled re-entries of rockets into the earth's orbit cause damage? What are the dangers highlighted in the letter written by the Outer Space Institute (OSI)?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

More than 140 experts and dignitaries have signed an open letter published by the Outer Space Institute (OSI) calling for both national and multilateral efforts to restrict uncontrolled re-entries – the phenomenon of rocket parts falling back to earth in unguided fashion once their missions are complete. Among others, the letter is addressed to S. Somanath, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

What are the stages of a rocket launch?

The Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite in 1957. Today, there are more than 6,000 satellites in orbit, most of them in low-earth (100-2,000 km) and geostationary (35,786 km) orbits, placed there in more than 5,000 launches. The number of rocket launches have been surging with the advent of reusable rocket stages.

Rockets have multiple stages. Once a stage has increased the rocket's altitude and velocity by a certain amount, the rocket sheds it. Some rockets jettison all their larger stages before reaching the destination orbit; a smaller engine then moves the payload to its final orbit. Others carry the payload to the orbit, then perform a deorbit manoeuvre to begin their descent. In both cases, rocket stages come back down – in controlled or uncontrolled ways.

What is an uncontrolled re-entry?

In an uncontrolled re-entry, the rocket stage simply falls. Its path down is determined by its shape, angle of descent, air currents and other characteristics. It will also disintegrate as it falls. As the smaller pieces fan out, the potential radius of impact will increase on the ground.

Some pieces burn up entirely while others don't. But because of the speed at which they're travelling, debris can be deadly.

On a rise: Today, there are more than 6,000 satellites in orbit, most of them in low-earth (100-2,000 km) and geostationary (35,786 km) orbits. AFP

A 2021 report of the International Space Safety Foundation said, "an impact anywhere on an airliner with debris of mass above 300 grams would produce a catastrophic failure, meaning all people on board would be killed".

Most rocket parts have landed in oceans principally because earth's surface has more water than land. But many have dropped on land as well.

Why are scientists worried about the re-entries?

The OSI letter cited examples of parts of a Russian rocket in 2018 and China's Long March 5B rockets in 2020 and 2022 striking parts of Indonesia, Peru, India and Ivory Coast, among others. Many news reports have focused on Chinese transgressions of late, but historically, the U.S. has been the worst offender.

Parts of a SpaceX Falcon 9 that fell down in Indonesia in 2016 included two "refrigerator-sized fuel tanks". If re-entering stages still hold fuel, atmospheric and terrestrial chemical contamination is another risk.

As per the letter, "Conservative estimates place the casualty risk from uncontrolled rocket body re-entries as being on the order of 10% in the next decade" and that countries in the 'Global South' face a "disproportionately higher" risk of casualties.

The U.S. Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices (ODMSP) require all launches to keep the chance of a casualty from a re-entering body to be below 0.01%. But the U.S. Air Force and the NASA have waived this requirement on multiple occasions.

A July 2022 study by researchers in Canada found that this threshold, which some other countries have also adopted, is "arbitrary and makes little sense in an era when new technologies and mission profiles enable controlled re-entries," and because many places have become more densely populated.

There is no international binding agreement to ensure rocket stages always perform controlled re-entries nor on the technologies with which to do so. The Liability Convention 1972 requires countries to pay for damages, not prevent them. These technologies include wing-like attachments, de-orbiting brakes, and extra fuel on the re-entering body, and design changes that minimise debris formation.

What can make minimum damage?

While the OSI letter admits that any kind of re-entry will inevitably damage some ecosystem, it recommends that bodies aim for an ocean in order to avoid human casualties.

The letter concludes by asking that future solutions be extended to re-entering satellites as well. Advances in electronics and fabrication have made way for smaller satellites, which are easier to build and launch in large numbers. These satellites experience more atmospheric drag than if they had been bigger, but they are also likelier to burn up during re-entry.

India's 300-kg RISAT-2 satellite re-entered earth's atmosphere in October after 13 years in low-earth orbit. The ISRO tracked it with its system for safe and sustainable space operations management from a month beforehand. It plotted its predicted paths using models in-house. The RISAT-2 eventually fell into the Indian Ocean on October 30.

THE GIST

- Today, there are more than 6,000 satellites in orbit, most of them in low-earth (100-2,000 km) and geostationary (35,786 km) orbits, placed there in more than 5,000 launches.
- In an uncontrolled re-entry, the rocket stage simply falls. Its path down is determined by its shape, angle of descent, air currents and other characteristics. It will also disintegrate as it falls. As the smaller pieces fan out, the potential radius of impact will increase on the ground.
- There is no international binding agreement to ensure rocket stages always perform controlled re-entries nor on the technologies with which to do so. The Liability Convention 1972 requires countries to pay for damages, not prevent them.

What do the J&K Land Grants Rules, 2022 entail?

How will the new rules impact the current land owners in Jammu and Kashmir? Who is eligible for lease rights in the Union Territory after the amendment? Why are political parties opposing the new rules?

Peerzada Ashiq

The story so far:

The J&K Lieutenant Governor's administration, in the third week of December, notified fresh land rules under J&K Land Grant Rules-2022 and replaced the J&K Land Grants Rules-1960, which dealt with the special rules to grant government land on lease in erstwhile State of J&K. Under the previous rules, prime locations such as Srinagar, Jammu, Gulmarg and Pahalgam were opened up for construction of hotels, commercial structures and residential buildings in the past.

What do new land laws entail?

According to the new land laws, the leases of current land owners will not be extended in case of their lease expiry. It reads that all leases, except the subsisting or expired residential leases, expired or determined prior to the coming into force of these rules or issued under these rules shall not be renewed and shall stand determined. Unlike the previous up to 99 years of lease, the lease period has been reduced to 40 years.

What is the L-G administration's plan for lease now?

An expert committee will enlist all properties where lease had ended. It will be e-auctioned afresh. The rules open bidding to "any person legally competent under Section 11 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872." These rules deem a person or an entity in default of Government Revenue accrued to the government under J&K Land Grant Act, 1960 or Government convicted under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 shall not be eligible for participation in the auction.

According to now-repealed land laws, no such land shall be granted on lease to the person, who is not a permanent residence of the State; except where the Government, for the reasons to be recorded, relax this restriction in the interest of industrial or commercial development or in the favour of a registered charitable society.

Who all are eligible for lease rights in J&K after amendments?

The L-G administration has diversified the use of land on lease to education, healthcare, agriculture, tourism, skill development and development of traditional art, craft, culture and languages. The land could be leased for hydro-electric projects, stadiums, playgrounds, gymnasiums or other recreational purposes. It also included provisions for self-employment or for housing purposes of ex-servicemen, war widows and the families of martyrs, one who has sacrificed his life in the line of duty. In a first, the land could also be used for facilities of migrant workers, buildings and other construction workers.

What will be the immediate impact of the amendments?

The new rules have hundreds of properties open for fresh auction, where outsiders could also participate. The government has not yet released the list of properties where lease has ended. The impact will be of great significance in tourist hotspot Gulmarg, where 56 hotels out of 59 have their leases expired already. Similarly, properties in Pahalgam, Srinagar and Jammu's Patnitop will go up for auction.

Why are regional parties opposing these amendments?

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah termed it as "unfortunate and aimed at settling outsiders". He said the first right to these lease properties "belongs to those who were already settled here". Kashmir's two key traders' bodies, the Jammu Kashmir Hoteliers Club (JKHC) and the Chamber Of Commerce Industry Kashmir (CCIK), said J&K's economy would come to a grinding halt and urged the L-G to reconsider the decision.

THE GIST

- According to the new land laws, the leases of current land owners will not be extended in case of their lease expiry.
- The L-G administration has diversified the use of land on lease to education, healthcare, agriculture, tourism, skill development and development of traditional art, craft, culture and languages.
- The new rules have hundreds of properties open for fresh auction, where outsiders could also participate. The impact will be of great significance in tourist hotspot Gulmarg, where 56 hotels out of 59 have their leases expired already.

Buses and Namma Metro on the road to recovery

Ridership in Bengaluru buses and Namma Metro increased considerably following relaxation of COVID-19 related norms; milestones and new initiatives mark the year

REWIND 2022

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

After suffering financial distress for two years due to the pandemic, 2022 has helped the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to "normalise" public transport services in the city.

Ridership in city buses and Namma Metro increased considerably following relaxation of COVID-19 related norms.

The BMTC is running 5,700 buses and the ridership has jumped to 35 lakh per day. The average per day ridership in Namma Metro crossed over 5 lakh, helping the BMRCL to generate operational profit.

Other highlights

- After missing several deadlines in the past, the BMRCL finally started a trial run to extend the Purple Line of Namma Metro to Whitefield. The metro stretch from K.R. Puram to Whitefield is expected to be operational by March 2023, and the remaining stretch from Baiyappanahalli to K.R. Puram is likely to be opened for the public by mid-2023
- On August 15, BMTC celebrated its silver jubilee and offered free bus services across the city
- The Vande Bharat train was started between Chennai and Mysuru via Bengaluru in November, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching the first-ever Vande Bharat service in South India
- In June, Mr. Modi also inaugurated the "airport like" Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal at Baiyappanahalli
- After electrification of the Yelahanka-Devanahalli line, the SWR introduced MEMU train services for air passengers and people working at KIA from July. However, patronage remains poor
- The BMRCL has deployed a total of nine tunnel boring machines to build a tunnel network of 14 km from Dairy Circle to Nagawara. Vamika, Avni, Varada, Lavi, and Bhadra achieved breakthroughs, but Rudra was stuck after encountering a heap of garbage 30 feet below the surface near Lakkasandra

Due to financial difficulties and other reasons, the BMTC had postponed the induction of new buses for years. This year, the corporation has managed to add more than 1,000 new buses to its existing fleet. The new buses inducted include 803 BSVI diesel buses and 270 odd electric buses under FAME -2 of the Union government.

Though the BMTC's fleet size has increased after induction of the new buses, shortage of drivers impacted utilisation of the fleet size. "Available fleet sizes remain underutilised due to a shortage of 3,500 drivers. The recruitment of new drivers was stalled after the outbreak of the pandemic. There is a scope to run 1,000 more buses, but for the time being augmentation of buses is impacted," saidDirector (IT) of the BMTC, Surya Sen A.V.

This year, the BMTC has managed to add more than 1,000 new buses to its existing fleet. K. MURALI KUMAR

He also said that the introduction of the digital pass system helped passengers in a big way.

"Using digital pass system, more than 90,000 people are travelling in city buses. They are able to buy daily, weekly and monthly passes at their comfort. When we launched the service, 20,000 passengers were using it, but now the number has increased considerably. There is no need for the passengers to visit ticket issuing counters to purchase passes."

He added that this month, the BMTC is also introducing new electronic ticketing machines (ETMs) on a large scale, which will help passengers to buy tickets through various digital modes.

A total of 9,500 ETMs will be made available. He said the corporation is all set to launch upgraded mobile app which will help people to plan their bus trips as real time arrival of buses and other information can be availed.

The Namma Metro has been operational for over 11 years in the city and passengers were relying on smart cards and tokens to travel in the metro.

This year, for the first time, the BMRCL introduced QR tickets using WhatsApp and Namma Metro.

The BMRCL has claimed that it is the first global transit space to introduce an end-to-end ticketing system on WhatsApp. On average, 14,000 passengers use the QR ticket system.

Prior to this, the BMRCL had introduced one-day, three-days, and five-day passes. The BMRCL has also taken several measures to generate non-fare box revenue by allowing shops, eateries,and other commercial establishments at metro stations.

The BMRCL started implementing one of the crucial metro lines linking Kempegowda International Airport with the city.

The project is being implemented under phase II B by extending ORR (Central Silk Board to K.R. Puram) from K.R. Puram via Nagawara and Hebbal. The total length of the ORR-airport line is 55 km.

During the execution of the work, the BMRCL faced many challenges, including heavy rainfall. In September and October-,works had to be temporarily halted when the city received incessant rain in the eastern part of Bengaluru.

Anjum Parwez, MD, BMRCL, said: "Commencing the metro work to the airport is a significant development. The work is going at a good pace. This year, the Phase III metro from J.P. Nagarto Kempapura and Hosahalli to Kadabagere has received approval of the State government and the file has been moved to the Central government for clearance."

'Mini zoo' in former Minister's farmhouse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a joint operation, the CCB, along with the Forest Department, raided the farmhouse of former Minister S.S. Mallikarjun at Davangere and found seven deer, 10 black bucks, seven wild boars, three mongooses, and two jackals being kept illegally.

The officials booked the manager and an employee under various sections of the wildlife Act and have taken the animals for medical examination, following which they will be released into the forest, an official said.

The incident came to light when the CCB, following a wildlife poaching case registered in Hebbal, on December 18, arrested Senthil, who confessed that he had killed the deer from the farmhouse in Davangere.

Based on his confession, a team of police went along with him to recover the carcass for further investigation and found the "mini zoo" and alerted the Forest officials.

The manager of the farmhouse claimed that they had permission for housing a few wild animals, which is being examined, a police officer said.

Inquiries revealed that the wild animals were being bought from tribals and poachers and kept in the farm. While the jackals have been kept as pets for goodwill, the deer are suspected to have been reared for the meat.

Probe report into D.J. Halli, K.G. Halli riots accepted

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State Cabinet on Thursday accepted the district magisterial-led inquiry report into the violence at K.G. Halli and D.J. Halli in Bengaluru in August 2020 and gave a clean chit to the police action of lathicharge and firing.

The State government had ordered the district magistrate-led inquiry to probe the riots that rocked parts of Pulakeshinagar constituency, leaving three people dead.

The report is said to have stated that the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) pre-planned the violence, which caused damage to properties.

Engineering student arrested for hoax call

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused threatened to bomb the Kempegowda International Airport on December 10 on Twitter

The airport police on Thursday arrested a 20-year-old engineering student for threatening, on Twitter, to bomb the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on December 10.

Based on a complaint, the police tracked down the accused from his Twitter account and arrested him.

The accused has been identified as Vaibhav Ganesh, 20, a resident of Kudlu gate.

"Vaibhav was facing difficulties to commute from the airport to his house whenever he visited his parents. Frustrated by this, he vented his ire through the tweet," the police said.

"As it is a bailable case, we have questioned him and issued a notice to appear again and let him go," a police officer said.

Though the police and the security officials knew that it was a hoax call, they carried out the SOP drill and the checks in and around the airport for many hours.

#THtalksBengaluru: Questions about Bengaluru traffic? Ask M.A. Saleem

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

From vehicles violating one-ways to parking in no-parking zones, Bengaluru's traffic problems have risen as rapidly as the city has grown. On December 24, Saturday, the man tasked with resolving these issues – M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner, Traffic – will answer your questions as he participates in #THtalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

You can send in your questions to us via mail (letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in) or on our Twitter handle (@THBengaluru) right away, apart from participating in the live chat on Saturday.

Visit:
https://tinyurl.com/Live-with-MA-Saleem

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No. RO KA-32.0011.0/11/2022-CON-RO KA Date: 21.12.2022
ई-निविदा सूचना/e-Tender Notice
ऑनलाइन निविदाएं जी ई एम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत दो वर्ष हेतु **1) आरएच/एफएसडी उडुपी में एचटीसी, 2) साइलों मालूर से केरल क्षेत्र के 6 अलग-अलग डिपो तक के लिए आरटीसी,** आमंत्रित की जा रही है। एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं। ऑनलाइन बोलियां **13.01.2023** को अपराह्न **02:00 बजे** तक प्रस्तुत की जानी हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।
Online Tenders for regular **1) HTC at RH/FSD Udupi, 2) RTC from Silo Malur to 6 different depots of Kerala region** for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 13.01.2023**. For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**
महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (KTK)

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, 8th Cross,12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru-560 038.
No: EE/CVR/E-proc/25/2022-23 Date: 20.12.2002

CORRIGENDUM-1

The attention of the intending contractors are drawn to this Office Tender Notification No: No: EE/CVR/E-proc/25/2022-23 Date: 08.12.2022, The date of downloading the documents through e-procurement for item Nos.24 & 63 is as below.

Sl Nos.	Details	Previous Dates	Present Dates
01	Tender documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from	12.12.2022	20.12.2022
02	Last date for submission of tender documents through E-Procurement	27.12.2022 up to 4.30 PM	04.01.2023 up to 4.30 PM
03	Opening of tender on	28.12.2022 at 4.30 PM if possible	05.01.2023 at 4.30 PM If Possible

The other terms and conditions remain unchanged
Sd/- Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical South, South Zone Office Complex, 2nd Floor, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560 011.
No: EE/ELE/S/TEND/14/2022-23 Date: 21-12-2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Electrical South, South Zone, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP/KPWD/Electrical/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any state Government organizations for the electrical works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount put to tender for PMC in Lakhs	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Providing project management Consultancy Services (PMC) for Comprehensive Development of Street Lighting with accessories like control switch, etc. and illumination to major roads with replacement of deteriorated street poles with light fittings, installation of Poles with suitable lights in dark stretches of all type of roads, playgrounds, parks, in all wards coming under BTM Constituency (Package-1) **(Project Cost : Rs.500.00 Lakhs).**	**5.00 Lakhs**	12,500/-
2	Providing project management Consultancy Services (PMC) for Comprehensive Development of Street Lighting with accessories like control switch, etc. and illumination to major roads with replacement of deteriorated street poles with light fittings, installation of Poles with suitable lights in dark stretches of all type of roads, playgrounds, parks, in all wards coming under Jayanagara Assembly Constituency (Package-2) **(Project Cost : Rs.400.00 Lakhs).**	**4.00 Lakhs**	10,000/-
3	Providing project management Consultancy Services (PMC) for Comprehensive Development by providing park lightings, Street Light fitting, poles, switches & CC Cameras in Ward No.161, 181, 182, 183, 165, 166, 167 & 180 in Padmanabhanagar Assembly Constituency. (Package-3) **(Project Cost : Rs.1000.00 Lakhs).**	**10.00 Lakhs**	25,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) RFP documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of GOK from **23.12.2022 onwards. (2)** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **28.12.2022 at 15:00 hrs.** in the office of the Executive Engineer (Electrical South), 9th Main, 9th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011. **(3)** Last date for submission of tender documents: **31.12.2022 upto 16:00 hrs. (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on: **02.01.2023 at 4:00 p.m.**
Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical South), BBMP

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-23 of 2022-23, Letter No.3270 /Dtd.19.12.2022

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : **Road** (Improvement of Existing R.D.roads)
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-23 of 2022-23	27.12.2022 10:00 AM	12.01.2023 5:00 PM	11.01.2023 5:00 PM	13.01.2023 10:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
O-1486: OIPR-25133/11/0030/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK.
Email id :- seeccuttack@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice No.ACE,EC-I/10 of 2022-23 (On-line)

1.	Name of Work	:	**Improvement to Mahanadi left embankment from Guali to Pinpur. Bid Identification No. ACE, EC-I MND 03 of 2022-23.**
2.	Total No. of Package	:	**01 No. Package.**
3.	Tender Paper Cost (Non-refundable)	:	**Rs.10,000.00 (On-line payment)**
4.	Bid Security	:	**"Bid Security Declaration"** is to be furnished as per Finance Department Office Memorandum No.8484/F dated 05.04.2022. The bids without **"Bid Security Declaration"** will be summarily rejected.

5. Bid details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Tender Amount(Rs. in Lakh) (Approx.)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack	ACE, EC-I MND 03 of 2022-23	499	'A'	06 (Six) Calendar months	27.12.2022 at 10.00 hrs.	10.01.2023 upto 17.30 hrs.	11.01.2023 at 11.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site.
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack.
A-905 : OIPR-32370/11/0011/2223

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shilpa L V D/o Vijayakumar R, W/o Dilip C , residing at Malenahalli, Holalkere,Chitradurga, Karnataka - 577526, have changed my name to Nirajakshi Dilip for all future purposes.

I, ASHUTOSH ,S/O Ram Bharose Sharma ,R/O H–403,Ozone Evergreens,Haralur Main Road,HSR Layout, BLR – 560102. have changed my name as "Ashutosh Sharma" vide afdvt dtd 21/12/2022.

RENTAL

Land for Rent / JV
1.5 Acre Land available for Rent/ JV for School/ College near RR Nagar, Bangalore.
Contact:
9980172972
6364621454

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRABHAWATI Pandey is dependent mother of Sudha Shankar Pandey resident of Vill–Nagarpura, PO–Bara Sighanpura, Dist– Buxar(Bihar) have changed my name from Prabhawati Pandey to Prabhawati Devi vide affidavit dated 02.12.2022 before Notary CV Earappa Bengaluru.

I, SERVICE No.1289406A, Rank- Sep (Retired), Name: Appadurai Damodaran, R/o #4, Kittaganuru Colony, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560036 have changed my Son's name from D S Mani to D. Balasubramani vide affidavit dt: 22-12-2022 before Motary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, SREE Ram Kumar Devireddy ,S/O Venkata Ramana Devireddy ,R/O Flat No 304, SG Encalve, New Rajanna Layout, Horamavu, Bangalore – 560043. have changed my name as " Sriram Kumar Devireddy" vide afdvt dtd 22/12/2022.

TENDERS

International Buddhist Confederation
Room No 513, 5th Floor, A-1 Wing, IGNCA Building, Janpath, New Delhi 110001 India,
Web Site: - https://www.ibcworld.org/tenders_page.php,
Email adminibc@ibcworld.org

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
F.No.54/Lumbini/IBC/2022/CW
Corrigendum No.2
In continuation of IBC's earlier advertisement dated 01.12.2022

The Dates of some important events related to tender are as under :-
1. Last date of submission of tender - 06.01.2023
2. Availability of tender Documents at IBC Office from - 26.12.2022
3. Last date of purchase of tender Documents - 01.01.2023
4. Rest of the details related to Tender may please be seen on

WEBSITE-https://www.ibcworld.org/tenders_page.php
From December 22, 2022, 1700hrs. onwards

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Smt.H.M.Rathnamma W/o Sri.V.Seenappa** to bring the notice of the general public that the original registered sale deed, bearing Doc.No.ANK-1-03200/2006-07 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.ANKD116, date.26.04.2006, registered in the office of the sub-register, Anekal, Bangalore, executed by **Sri. R.Prabhakar Reddy and others** in favour of **Sri.Krishna S/o Gopal Jogi** is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing **site No.40,** Katha No.40, formed in converted Sy.No.30/2 & 30/3, measuring East to West:40-0 feet and North to South: 30-0 feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.feet, situated at **Chikkahagade Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Byagadadenahalli Grama Panchayat, Bangalore District, Bangalore** and bounded by:
East by : Site No.31, West by : Road,North by : Site No.39, South by : Site No.41.
H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that our client intends to Develop the immovable property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder with the present owner **Mr. A.V.KRISHNAM RAJU,** He has represented that he is an absolute owner of the schedule property and he has not entered into any agreement of sale or any sort of arrangement with any persons and apart from him there are no other person/s having any sort of right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property.
Any person or persons asserting any charge, lien, right, title, agreement, interest or claim on the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule property or the documents thereof or against the owner or objection to such sale in favour of our client should lodge his/her/their/its objections or claims with supporting documents to the undersigned, within **10 days** of the issuance of this public notice, after that our client shall proceed with the Development of the schedule property on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the schedule property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
"All the piece and parcel of the Site bearing **No.106,** Serial No.124 New Municipal No.106, Situated at next to **Gokula School, Opp:- Venugopalaswamy Temple, Devasandra Main Road, K.R.Puram, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 42 feet and North to South 100 feet, in all measuring 4200 sq feet and bounded as follows:-
East by : Property belongs to Dibyendu Ghosh; West by : Property belongs to Manohar; North by : Property belongs to Anjinappa; South by : Road.
C.V.Nagendra, Advocate
SNS Law Associates
No. 101,1st Floor, No.663, 3rd Cross, Opp to Karnataka Bank, Kumbara Street, K.R. Pura, Bangalore-560036.
Bangalore Date : 23-12-2022

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Fundamental right: Afghan women protest against the ban on women accessing University education in Kabul, Afghanistan. GETTY IMAGES

Afghan women's rights are at risk under the Taliban regime

The growing restrictions on women's rights debunk the myth that Taliban 2.0 is moderate or reformed; they have made a series of contradicting moves on the issue of return of women to public life

Shanthie Mariet D'Souza

Despite initially promising a more moderate rule and women's and minority rights, the Taliban, on December 20, 2022 banned women from private and public universities in Afghanistan with immediate effect and until further notice. They have banned girls from middle school and high school, and ordered them to wear head-to-toe clothing in public. Shanthie Mariet D'Souza talks about the regressive mindset of the Taliban since the capture of Kabul in the article dated June 13, 2022.

In a rare interview, broadcast by CNN on May 17, Afghanistan's Interior Minister and head of the dreaded Haqqani Network, Sirajuddin Haqqani, promised "very good news" soon on the return of girls to secondary schools that have remained shut since March this year, just hours after their reopening. However, any euphoria about this could be misplaced given the number of regressive steps taken by the Taliban to curb women and girls' freedom since they took power in August 2021.

The Taliban's true colours

The initial shock following the Taliban's seizure of power in Kabul is waning. The Taliban, who during the initial period of the takeover had demonstrated a modicum of moderation to gain international acceptability, funding and recognition, have now started showing their true colours. For long-term observers of Afghanistan, this is hardly surprising. Notwithstanding the U.S.-mediated 2020 peace deal, which seemed to erroneously pin hopes on a "reformed" Taliban to govern the country, many observers had issued warnings that the takeover of power by the Taliban would result in the loss of the fragile gains made in Afghanistan over the last two decades.

While there can be a debate over the gains made by the international community in Afghanistan in the last 20 years, it was unmistakable that opportunities for girls and women in education and employment had expanded vastly. Female participation in Afghanistan's labour force had climbed from around 15% in 2009 to nearly 22% in 2019.

During my frequent visits to various provinces of Afghanistan, it was always heartening to see women play important roles in the government, parliament, the media, the health and education sectors, and in civil society. They had carved space for themselves in conflict-ridden patriarchal structures and systems. Though the various interventions by the international community on women's issues did not transform the structures, they did provide opportunities for women to be enablers of change. In parliament, and in the provincial councils of Kandahar, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Herat, Balkh and others, young women took grave risks in political participation and mobilisation.

Today, those voices are lost. A report from the International Labour Organization in January 2022 found that Afghan women's employment levels fell by an estimated 16% in the third quarter of 2021, compared with 6% for men. By mid-2022, women's employment is expected to be 21% lower than before the Taliban takeover, if current conditions continue. In a rush to reach out to the Taliban during the peace processes, protection of the rights of women were hardly emphasised as a red line. As fatigue towards the war developed within and outside the country, there were barely any concerted efforts in making women rights and human rights a non-negotiable part of the negotiations.

The participation of a few Afghan women representatives in the intra-Afghan dialogue in Doha had raised expectations in the international community that the insurgents had reformed and would be willing to accept women's role in Afghan society and government. These hopes were, however, shattered.

There is speculation that the Taliban are in the process of the finalising the dress code in schools for girls. Haqqani did refer to the "requirement" that education should be based on Afghan "culture" and "Islamic rules and principles". He referred "more broadly" to the issue of women wearing the hijab. The Taliban are not just identifying dress codes for girls and women; men too have been asked to wear particular types of clothes and grow a beard, which has led to hair dressers bringing down the shutters on their business. However, with regard to women, the Taliban's diktats have been particularly harsh.

A regressive mindset

Since the capture of power in Kabul, the Taliban have made a series of contradicting moves on the issue of return of women to public life. Initially they referred to the prevalence of chaos and insecurity and asked women to stay indoors. The Taliban's acting Prime Minister, Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, claimed that women would be allowed to continue working under Sharia law, but female government employees in Kabul were then told to stay at home. Only women whose jobs cannot be performed by men were allowed to work. Subsequently, the regime brought in rules which forbade women from venturing out if they were not accompanied by a male relative. On May 7, the Taliban chief, Hibatullah Akhundzada, issued a decree making an all-covering burqa mandatory for women. It is, therefore, unlikely that Haqqani's assurance of "very good news" will reverse the group's regressive outlook.

It is clear that Taliban 2.0 is in no way different from the Taliban that ruled the country between 1996 and 2001. The stories of a "reformed" and "moderate" Taliban, which were narrated by sections of the media, were naïve. I had conducted an interview in May 2012 with Maulvi Qalamuddin, former Deputy Minister for the General Department for the Promotion of Virtue and Elimination of Vice of the Taliban, a post in which he oversaw the implementation of extreme Islamic laws through religious police squads who kept a close watch of the Afghan populace, at the High Peace Council in Kabul, an Afghan organisation set up by President Hamid Karzai in 2010 to negotiate with the Taliban-led insurgency.

When I asked him whether women's rights would be protected if the Taliban were to come back, he responded: "The west does not understand Afghan society. I am not against women working in offices or going out in public alone. Look, you are a foreigner. If you can cover your head and respect our culture, we appreciate and expect the same from Afghan women. The present breed of Afghan women appearing on TV without head scarves is not acceptable. Women need to adhere to the Sharia laws in consonance with the Afghan culture."

His answers hardly denoted a change of heart.

The greatest impact of denial of rights for women in the workforce would be a sharp contraction in the economy. In addition to the loss of rights, many households run by women could be staring at a bleak future. As per the World Bank, in 2019, 36% of teachers in the country were women, the highest number for 20 years. But most female educators have been forced out of work by the Taliban's ban on education for girls in March 2022. By the end of 2021, fewer than 100 of Kabul's 700 female journalists were still working (Reporters Without Borders data).

As the war in Ukraine has grabbed and retained international attention, Afghanistan seems to have been forgotten yet again. Occasionally, the plight of Afghan women and the Taliban's atrocities find mention in the media. The Taliban do not shy from leveraging the issue to gain international attention. The international community, therefore, needs to make a concerted and coordinated attempt to protect the rights of Afghan women and girls and ensure that Afghanistan's de facto rulers are held accountable for their actions.

Shanthie Mariet D'Souza is Founder and President, Mantraya and Visiting Research Fellow, SWP, Berlin

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

December 23 is celebrated as Kisan Diwas. Here is a quiz on some seminal events and interesting nuggets related to the agriculture sector

Abhinaya K

QUESTION 1

Kisan Diwas is celebrated on the birth anniversary of a former Indian Prime Minister. He was known to have taken up many causes for the welfare of the farming community, notably passing vital land reform Bills. Who is the Prime Minister?

QUESTION 2

Environment release of a GM mustard variety, DMH- 11, was approved recently and certain farmers' bodies and activists have opposed it. Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 is a cross between two varieties of mustards. Name them.

QUESTION 3

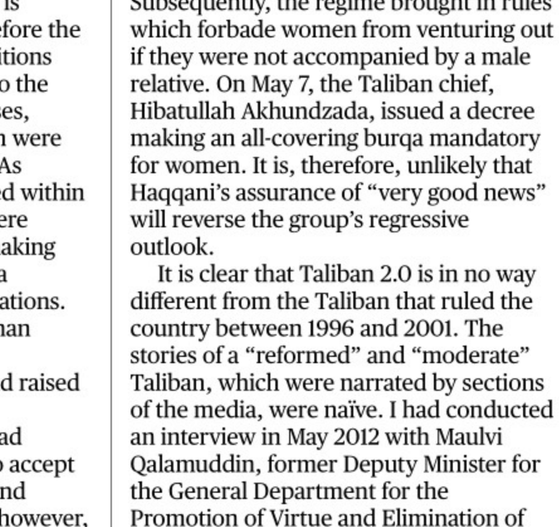
This State had a tussle with the Union government over procurement of paddy. The State government wanted the Centre to purchase paddy at MSP, while the latter said it would buy only raw rice and not parboiled rice. Name the State and its ruling party.

QUESTION 4

In view of the domestic demand, the government banned the export of this commodity in September. It said the move would ensure availability of feed for the poultry industry and to produce ethanol. Name the commodity.

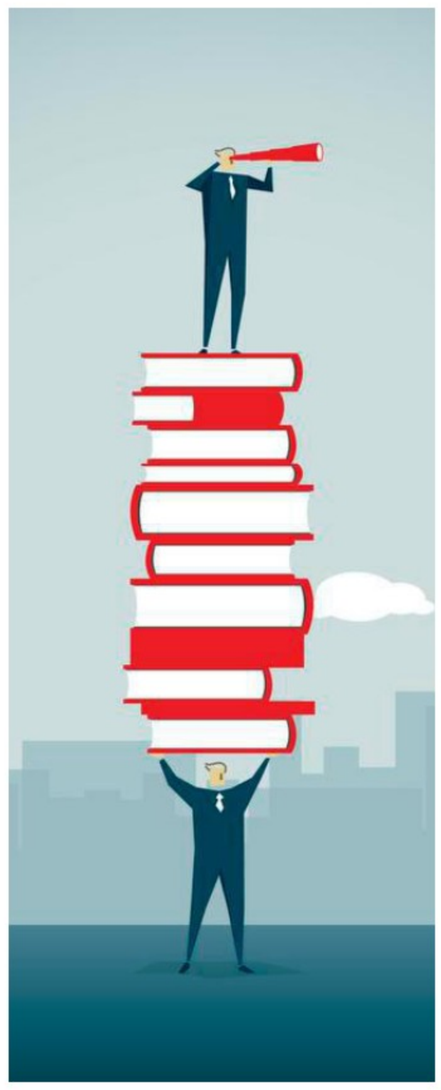
QUESTION 5

Farmers and residents in Ekanapuram and other surrounding villages in Tamil Nadu have been protesting and voicing concerns against a proposal. What is the proposal?



Visual question:
This is a shot from a critically acclaimed Tamil film on the plight of farmers. Name the film.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the award given in recognition of "outstanding mathematical achievement for existing work and for the promise of future achievement". **Ans: Fields Medal**
2. Name the Greek that taught us that the square of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of two of its other sides. **Ans: Pythagoras**
3. By what name are these six problems, along with the already-solved Poincare Conjecture problem, known as? **Ans: The Millennium Prize Problems**
4. Name the author of the book, *A Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure and Applied Mathematics.* **Ans: George Shoobridge Carr**
5. The number that cannot be represented in roman numerals. **Ans: Zero**
Visual: Name the theorem. **Ans: Fermats Last Theorem**
Early Birds: Pooja Khyalia | Bharat Yadav | Khushi Singh



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Ms. I. Kalyani of Pune wants to know which of the following it correct: (a) It is high time he did it (b) It is high time he does it."

"It is high time he did it" is correct.
It is high time he left.
It is high time he made up his mind.
It is high time he went to bed.
It is high time he made a remark.
It is high time you looked for a job.

You can also say, "It is time you looked for a job'.
It is time you mended your ways.
It is time you gave him a chance.
It is time they were in bed.

'High' is added to 'time' when you want to give emphasis to the statement. 'It is time we went' means that we did not go, but it would be desirable to leave immediately. 'It is high time we went' means that it is time for us to leave; in fact, we should have left earlier."

"Mr. K. Suresh of Tirupur wants to know the difference between 'belief' and 'hope' and 'confidence'."

" 'Belief' is what a person accepts mentally for various reasons. It is not verifiable. It is one's personal conviction. One's belief in God is the result of one's personal conviction. Belief is not based on reason. To hope is 'to cherish a desire of good with expectation of fulfilment'.
I hope for the best.
I hope you are all right now.

You never say 'I hope it is not all right'. 'Confidence' is the opposite of 'diffidence'. A confident man is sure that he will succeed in his undertakings. 'Confidence' implies a certain measure of self-assurance. 'Hope is the belief, more or less strong, that joy will come.' Confidence implies faith in oneself and in one's powers.
His confidence springs from complete mastery over his subject."

"Mr. Syed Sadiq Hussain of Nizamabad wants to know the pronunciation of 'bourgeois'.

"It is pronounced 'buaswa'. 'Bua' rhymes with 'poor'. The 's' is pronounced like the 's' in 'pleasure' and 'measure'. The 'a' to pronounced like the 'a' in 'part'. The stress is on the first syllable."

Word of the day

Beleaguer: cause problems or difficulties, annoy persistently

Synonyms: troubled, badger, nag

Usage: *The employees in the industry felt increasingly beleaguered and burnt out*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/3WedGIx

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bɪˈliːgə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, DEC. 23		
RISE	06:37	SET 18:00
RISE	06:21	SET 17:57
SATURDAY, DEC. 24		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:00
RISE	07:29	SET 19:05
SUNDAY, DEC. 25		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:01
RISE	08:33	SET 20:12

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	30	16
Bengaluru	28	14

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry.Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfotable but humid. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Sewage surveillance finds zero positivity in city in last 5 weeks

TAC also recommends starting sewage surveillance in Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Belagavi

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Sewage surveillance that is being conducted in Bengaluru city by the Infectious Diseases Research Foundation (IDRF) since this June has found zero positivity of SARS-CoV-2 in the last five weeks.

Based on the State's COVID-19 technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendations, IDRF conducted waste water surveillance in the city and from June to December 17, 627 samples were tested, of which only 211 (33%) were positive for the virus.

TAC chairman M.K. Sudarshan told *The Hindu* after the committee's meeting with Chief Minister Basvaraj Bommai on Thursday that the virus has not ben detected from waste water in any site tested in the last five weeks.

Samples of waste water for the sewage surveillance were collected from the Bengaluru airport, two major hospitals, and apartment complexes in 15 locations of 12 wards. FILE PHOTO

"Presently the incidence of COVID-19 is at its lowest ebb in the State and the mortality rate is also very low in recent months. The situation is under good control. In the last two days, no COVID-19 patient has been hospitalised in Bengaluru. Moreover, on Wednesday no district in Karnataka reported any positive case, except Bengaluru where 18 cases have tested positive," Dr. Sudarshan said.

"According to IDRF's 28th weekly report received on December 17, SARS-CoV-2 was not detected in waste water samples (0% positivity) from those collected from December 9 to December 15, 2022. More so, the virus has not been detected from waste water in any site tested in the last five weeks. Samples have been collected from the airport, two major hospitals, and apartment complexes in 15 locations of 12 wards in the city and the airport. The daily average cases reported from all the wards is <=1 case for this time period, suggesting an overall decrease in SARS-CoV-2 circulation," Dr. Sudarshan said.

"As the SARS-CoV-2 situation can change quite fast, based on multiple epidemiological factors including new variants with higher propensity for immune escape, it is recommended to continue sewage surveillance in Bengaluru city more cautiously and intensively by IDRF. Additionally, sewage surveillance at Mangaluru airport should also begin. TAC has also recommended starting sewage surveillance in major cities of Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Belagavi," the TAC chairman added.

Educational institutions bring back COVID-19 protocols

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In view of the recent viral infections among children and the spike in COVID-19 cases in different parts of the world, educational institutions in Bengaluru have proactively started taking precautionary measures.

Schools are making masks and the use of sanitisers mandatory again, while also instructing children to maintain social distancing and not share food, amongst other things.

School managements said that due to the recent weather conditions, viral fever breakouts had occurred, which prompted them to take caution.

"About two weeks ago, we sent a message to parents, after many children fell sick, to encourage students to wear masks at all times. It was not mandatory but now, with COVID-19 cases surging at many places, we might make it mandatory. Once the students are back from the Christmas vacation, we will assess the situation and decide what to do about physical distancing," said Sunil Fernandes S.J., principal, St. Joseph's Boys High School.

Some other schools have started implementing protocols only after the latest news about COVID-19. "We just issued a circular today (Thursday) to be proactive. Wearing a mask, sanitising hands, to not share food, to not play in groups are some of the norms we have asked them to follow. Once again, slowly and steadily, we will implement these protocols as we had just started getting used to not following them," said Gayatri Vijendra, principal, Podar International School, Magadi Road.

As it is Christmas vacation and many families have plans to travel, the Associated Managements of Schools in Karnataka has asked parents to exercise caution before planning trips. In addition, Shashi Kumar D., general secretary of the association, said, "We request all to take care of SOPs at your respective schools."

On Thursday, Bangalore University issued a circular which said that in the backdrop of Health Department's advisory to take precaution in the State with regards to COVID-19, it is mandatory for all students, teachers, and non-teaching staff to take the booster dose (precautionary dose) and wear masks within the university.

From Page One

Masks in closed spaces made mandatory

While district hospitals and government medical college hospitals have been directed to reserve a minimal number of isolation beds for COVID-19, all healthcare facilities including private hospitals have been directed to to be prepared to manage any surge in COVID-19 cases.

"Following the Centre's guidelines, all positive samples (with a cycle threshold (CT) value <25) should be sent for Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS). The exercise of 2% random testing of international arrivals both at the Mangaluru and Bengaluru international airports will continue and further guidelines issued in this regard by the Centre will be followed," the guidelines said.

Officials have also been directed to accelerate the booster dose vaccination in line with supplies – so that the existing coverage of 22% is increased to 50% during December – January next year.

Besides, all district and taluk hospitals have been directed to undertake a dry run of their oxygen infrastructure regularly, preferably once in 15 days.

Bommai asks people to take COVID-19 booster dose

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Concerned at reports of a spurt in COVID-19 cases in China, U.S. and Japan, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has appealed to people in Karnataka to take the booster dose and cooperate with the government by following COVID-appropriate behaviour.

Only 20% of the people in Karnataka have received the booster dose so far despite several attempts by the government to increase the coverage in taluks and districts, Mr. Bommai told the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

In reply to a question by Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah during Zero Hour, Mr. Bommai said the government has revoked the severe restrictions imposed in previous years for containing the pandemic. Though sufficient quantity of the vaccine is available, people have not shown interest in getting a booster dose, he said.

APPOINTMENT

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA
(Established by as Act of the Parliament in 2009)
SH-10, Aland Road, Kalaburagi - 585 367.
Phone (08477) - 226722
Website : www.cuk.ac.in Email: registrar@cuk.ac.in

NOTIFICATION No. 30/2022

The University invites applications through an online mode from eligible candidates for the appointment of Group A, B & C Non-Teaching positions through direct recruitment /deputation basis. Interested candidates may please visit: www.cuk.ac.in for more details. The last date for submission of online application is 23/01/2023 and last date of receipt of hardcopy of online application along with all enclosures is 31/01/2023 up to 5:00 p.m. and last date of receipt of applications through proper channel (for In-service candidates) is 08/02/2023 up to 5:00 p.m.

Place : Kalaburagi
Date : 20/12/2022 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कोट्टायम
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY KOTTAYAM
(An Institution under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, governed by an Act of Parliament)
Regd. Office: Karoor, Valavoor (P.O), Pala , Kottayam (Dist.), Kerala - 686635, India. Website: www.iiitkottayam.ac.in

Advt. No. IIITK/01/12/2022-23/371 Date : December 21, 2022

RECRUITMENT FOR NON-TEACHING STAFF

The **Indian Institute of Information Technology Kottayam (IIIT Kottayam)**, invites applications from eligible Indian Nationals with outstanding academic achievements and ability to establish a vibrant working culture, for various non-teaching staff positions of the Institute, as given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Pay Level (7th CPC)	Max. Age Limit	No. of positions (tentative)	Reservation Status
1	Assistant Registrar (Accounts & Finance)	Level 10	50	1	UR-3
2	Assistant Registrar (Gen. Admin.)			1	
3	Technical Officer			1	
4	Junior Superintendent- Library	Level 06	37	1	OBC-NCL-1 UR-4
5	Junior Engineer (Electrical)			1	
6	Physical Training Instructor			1	
7	Junior Technical Superintendent			2	
8	Junior Technician	Level 03	32	6	OBC-NCL-2, SC-1, EWS-1, UR-7
9	Junior Assistant			4	
10	Driver -cum -MTS			1	
	Total			19	

Closing Date : 11.01.2023 (11.59 PM). For more details, please visit : https://recruitstaff.iiitkottayam.ac.in/.

REGISTRAR

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Solar panels installed on top of an apartment building in J.P. Nagar in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

A ray of hope? City's rooftop solar story sees slow progress

The total solar power generation in Bescom jurisdiction touched 210 megawatts this year against the target of 1,200 MW

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

From an energy-starved State to a power-surplus one, Karnataka has seen a 360 degree turn in fortunes, and the State has advertised its success story with much focus on its renewable energy sector – mostly solar. However, where the progress has been slow is in getting individuals and organisations to embrace this strategy, and contribute to the State's share in solar power generation.

Over eight years, from its implementation in 2014 to up until now, the Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic Plants in the jurisdiction of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has seen some growth, touching 61.74 megawatts (MW) this year (until November). In 2014, the year had ended with a cumulative capacity of 0.11 MW, which means that in eight years, the cumulative capacity has increased by 61.63 MW.

However, Bescom officials admitted that the total solar power generation capacity in Bescom jurisdiction is 210 MW.

5,000 consumers now use solar panels

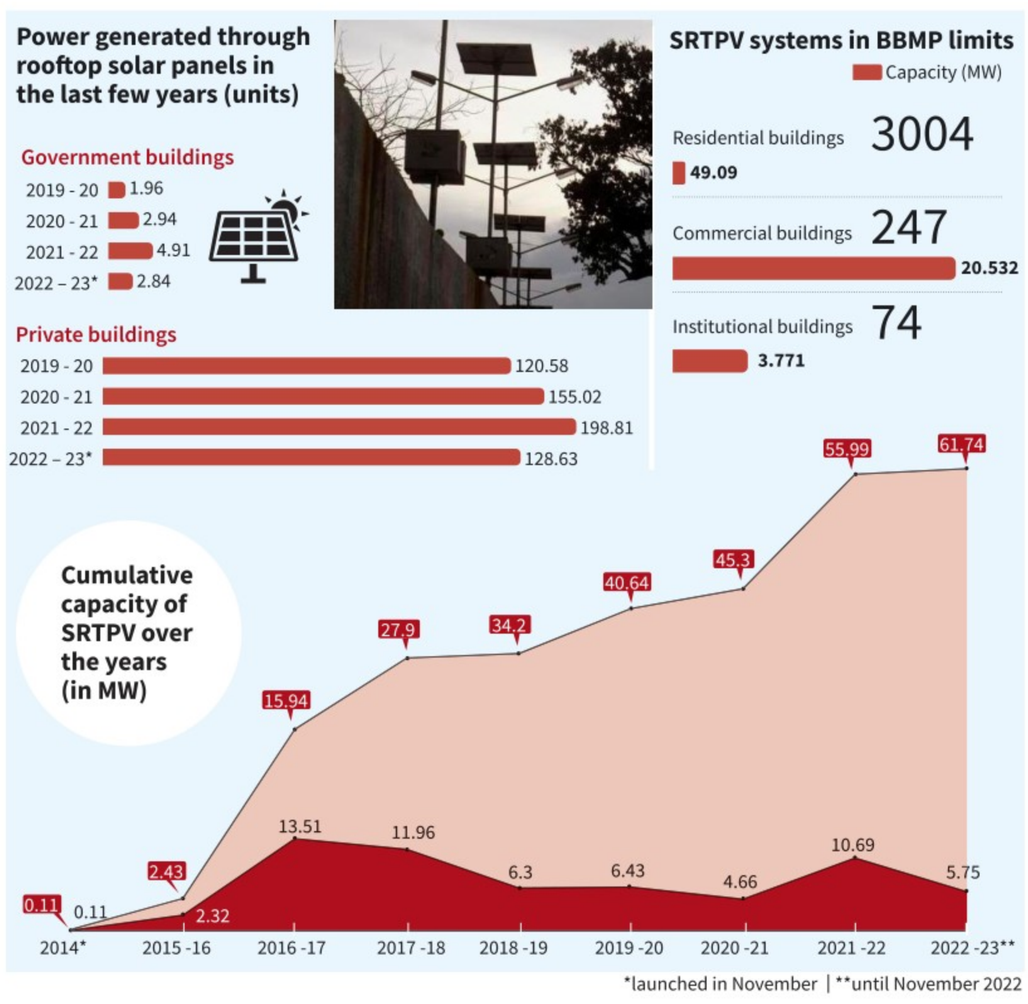
While more than 5,000 consumers now use solar power panels, over 3,000 of them are residential buildings, and the rest are industries and poultry farms in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits. Earlier this month, Bescom also started implementing the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) sponsored Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Scheme (Phase II), which was long awaited.

Under the scheme, Bescom said it would pay the subsidy amount (40% subsidy for first 3 kW and 20% subsidy for beyond 3kW and upto 10kW) to vendors who install the solar panels. Bescom received 1,500 applications for the scheme.

"By January 2023, we will complete the 10 MW allocation under the scheme. Solar power wise, we are doing very well in the country as we are in the third position after Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh when generation is concerned," said a senior official of the Demand Side Management (DSM) Department of Bescom.

A file photo of a street vendor using a solar-powered system in Bengaluru.

> If the government makes it compulsory for new apartments and housing complexes in urban areas to install rooftop solar or solar carports, it could encourage growth in the sector.
> **PRIYA SANJAY**
> MD, MERCOM INDIA



In 2018, a helicopter which was equipped with a technology called Light Detection and Ranging flew across the city, mapping the potential to generate rooftop solar power. The project was an agreement between Bescom, Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) and Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd (KREDL). The tool, which went live in 2020, helped customers to determine the solar power generation capacity of their rooftops on the Bescom website.

According to senior Bescom officials, the data from the project was not of much help to them as the mapping did not match the exact coordinates of the city. However, the tool has been helpful for the consumers who can match their coordinates to the map and check the capacity.

CSTEP, which had developed the tool, reported that till date, 32,000 used cases from residential sector were recorded. "However, we cannot tell how much of it resulted in implementation. Our tool showed that in the city of Bengaluru, in over 1,000 square kilometres, there are roughly four lakh rooftops with a cumulative capacity of 2.8 GW," said Saptak Ghosh, Senior Expert, Renewable Energy at CSTEP.

He added that to update the imagery, there is a lack of funding. "In an urban sprawl like Bengaluru, the scape changes rapidly with new constructions. The imagery was collected in 2018, and it needs to be updated sooner rather than later. Unless a government department or good Samaritans fund it, the tool has the possibility of becoming redundant", he said.

Looking ahead – challenges and plans

According to consumers, the biggest challenge while installing rooftop solar panels is the red tape as well as corruption amongst vendors. "My neighbours and I have been planning to get these panels for years now. However, when we directly approach Bescom, we do not get clearance and when we approach vendors, they demand bribe in thousands", said Krishna Murthy, a resident of Rajarajeshwarinagar.

Bescom officials said to avoid such complications, consumers must access the company's solar rooftop portal and select one of the empanelled vendors for their installation. "The minimum area required for installation is 10 by 10 and according to their sanctioned loads, anybody can get their installations done now, along with subsidy with the help of our portal", said an official of DSM, Bescom.

The official also added that several advancements have also been brought in, including hybrid inverters and technological improvements, to increase panel efficiency and reduce plant cost. "From the current cost of ₹80,000 - ₹1,00,000 per kW, it will come down to ₹50,000 per kW", they said.

Bescom is also taking several steps to create more awareness about solar panel installation. "We have been making use of our social media pages as well as our website to spread awareness. We have also been promoting the schemes during our *vidyuth adalats*" said Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bescom.

Experts say while India's cumulative rooftop solar capacity is about 8.3 gigawatts, by the end of September 2022, Karnataka's share was only about 5%.

"According to the installers, in Karnataka, due to lengthy government procedures and the time taken by the residents, installers face delays. Project planning and feasibility check also take time. The net metering cap for apartments is a significant hurdle for going solar. If the government makes it compulsory for new apartments and housing complexes to install rooftop solar or solar carports, it could encourage growth in the sector," said Priya Sanjay, Managing Director of Mercom India, a research and consultation firm which works in clean energy sector.

Residents say they save in lakhs on power bills with rooftop solar panels

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

At the Magnolia block of Brigade Millenium apartments in J.P. Nagar, 142 solar panels with a capacity of 350 watts were installed in 2019 at a cost of ₹32.5 lakh. Around 90% of power requirement of the common area of the apartment is catered to by the panels generating more than 70,000 units a year.

"We have saved ₹19.5 lakh over three years, and also saved 72 tonnes of carbon emissions. There were a few initial challenges like selection of panels and vendors, employing the right design, placement of inverter and assessing space and structural requirements. Once all of that was sorted out, we have been recovering an average of ₹6.5 lakh of our capital cost every year," the residents said

Green energy path

In the last few years, many residential complexes in Bengaluru decided to choose the green energy path, and installed rooftop solar panels on their terraces. Even with the 50-kW limit granted by Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), these complexes say they have been saving in lakhs for power bills every year on their energy expenses with a one time investment on panels.

At Brigade Millenium apartments, while a total of 74,660 units of solar energy were generated in the first year, despite erratic rain patterns, in 2020-21 and 2021-22, the panels generated 70,320 units and 70,900 units respectively. The residents also pointed out that 28 degrees Celsius is the optimum temperature for solar power generation and anything more or less will affect energy generation.

"Even if it rains in the night, a little sunlight in the morning will enable generation of power, which is why it (generation) has not been affected by rains. February-April is the optimum time for solar power generation," said Subramanya Putrevu, a resident of Jacaranda block at the same apartment.

According to data provided by Bescom, during the year 2022 - 23 (until November), 131.47 units of energy were generated out of which, private buildings generated the major share of 128.63 units while government buildings generated just 2.84 units.

'Remove ceiling'

Residential complexes are now demanding that the 50 kW wattage limit on Low Tension (LT) panels should be removed by Bescom and that they should be allowed to generate energy as much as their requirement is. They also said that easing of the process of application and implementation will encourage more such complexes to opt for rooftop solar panels. "Like how they have made rainwater harvesting and sewage treatment plants mandatory now, the same way they should make solar power panels mandatory for all the residential buildings," another resident said.

Bescom officials said that they are working on increasing the 50 kW limit given to residential buildings. "That decision will be made by KERC. We have also advised them (residential buildings) to file a petition with the KERC and when objections are raised, we will give our comments in a positive manner," said Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bescom.

A rooftop solar photovoltaic power plant installed on an apartment complex in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

With every nook and corner decked up for the festive season, we look at a few unique to the city

Christmas comes to Bengaluru

Sparkly splendour The city dons its festive best this time of year. MURALI KUMAR K AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shalini Kapat

Shopping bags, parcels, ribbon and gift wrap are a common sight at malls, restaurants and public places as Christmas and the New Year draw near, and with the first glimpse of tinsel and shiny baubles at the city's landmarks, we know the countdown has begun.

Namma Bengaluru special

Though churches around the city are elegantly decorated with Christmas lights and trees this time of the year, one of the most unique decorations is put up by the Mar Thoma Syrian Church on Primrose Road.

With a constant focus on handmade decorations using unique sustainable and recycled material items for Christmas decorations, this year the church has used bamboo strips sourced from a blind basket weaver Satish, and his wife Laxmi who sit by a railway station in Bengaluru.

Apart from this, the church used old CDs to decorate the Christmas tree.

"A few years ago, we collected plastic bottles and decorated the church; the previous year we used foil and other sustainable material for the same purpose," said Daniel Thomas, a member of the church choir.

Elsewhere in Bengaluru, the city's 48th Annual Cake Show began from December 16, at St. Joseph's School Ground which shall continue till January 2, 2023. An exquisite variety of cakes sculpted in wondrous shapes shares space with stalls put up by the National Consumer Fair; a major attraction this season.

Sweet treats

The spate of wet weather did not dampen the spending sprees at popular shopping spots in the city. Christmas decorations jostle with stalls of street food, winter wear and announcements for year-end contests at Commercial Street, as shoppers check off items on their party lists.

On Church Street and Brigade Road, specially curated menus and activities for Christmas and New Year's Eve target young adults in the hope of garnering more footfalls.

Call of the mall

With the luxury of space, the decorations in malls tend to get larger than life. Here too, events, activities and discounts lure walk-ins to part with cash.

Gigantic Christmas trees are a perfect backdrop for selfies, apart from snowmen, reindeer, clowns and other decorations with a festive theme. Orion Avenues in Banaswadi, Nexus in Koramangala and Garuda Mall in Ashok Nagar are just a few of the malls bedecked in festive finery. Besides dazzling decorations, outdoor stalls with accessories, sundry brick-a-brac and season specials dotted the outer areas of most malls in the city.

Can luxury dining show you the way home?

Farmlore's menus harness tradition, modern gastronomy and the power of childhood memories

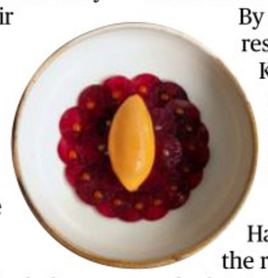
Lore of the wild Ethical meals with a side of nostalgia SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shonali Muthalaly
shonali.m@thehindu.co.in

Honestly, all Chef Johnson Ebenezer wanted to do was to go home. In the process, he gathered together a young, fiercely talented team and created one of the coolest destination restaurants in the country.

Set in between 37 acres of fruit trees on the fringes of Bengaluru, Farmlore has an unexpectedly diminutive footprint – it seats 18 people in an intimate space carved into the farm's lush greenery with glass and tall beams.

Built around what is grown on the property, dinner consists of intricately planned and plated courses, all harnessing traditional techniques, molecular gastronomy and the vivid heat of their cheekily named wood-fired oven, Kannagi.



Of course, it takes a lot of work to make anything look easy, so not surprisingly all three chefs have impressive credentials.

Johnson Ebenezer, who helms the restaurant, was executive chef of the Michelin-star Nadodi in Malaysia. Mythrayie Iyer worked at René Redzepi's influential two-Michelin-star Noma in Denmark. Avinnash Vishaal was at Frantzen in Sweden, which has three Michelin stars.

All three wanted a creative, space to experiment with techniques and recipes. So in 2019, backed by hotelier and COO of the Atria group Kaushik Raju, they quit their respective jobs, and started working on a dream project that they were still defining.

"I wanted to create a menu that represents South India, and all the flavours we are familiar with," says Johnson, who travels to Chennai every week to spend his days off with his family. (His father, a former State-level hockey player and a retired sub-inspector now in his late 70s, still teaches children hockey).

The clincher was the work-life balance this project promised. "We have a five-day work week, which is rare in the hospitality industry," says Johnson. On Monday and Tuesday, the entire team shuts down.

By August 2021, the restaurant came up in Kaushik's farm, already lush with mango, guava, jackfruit and coconut trees.

They added 19 Hallikar cows, native to the region, a brood of chickens, a hydroponic set up and a vertical farm. The team also started to forage for edible wild greens, aided by GoogleLens and an undying enthusiasm to taste everything.

Mythrayie meanwhile built herself a fermentation chamber, which she filled with jars of carefully labelled experiments, from nethili fish garum to fermented millets.

Experimentation and menu development is key here, explains Johnson. "We document everything we do. The flavours should hit you." It helps that they grow their own organic produce.

The dinner menu, which changes every month, begins with freshly shucked oysters, brought in from Kochi every day, served with a sorbet of water melon and apricot pearls. It is followed by a crunchy meringue studded with fire ants, specifically plucked from a citrus tree in the backyard, "because the ants on the mango tree don't taste the same".

The food is sophisticated, but fun. It teases out old memories, while simultaneously daring diners to experiment with new flavours. Fluffy fried dough topped with dehydrated yoghurt and chilli cream spins off curd vadais.

"We don't call ourselves modern Indian," says Johnson, explaining their philosophy. "We take flavours we have grown up with and build dishes around them."

The 10-course menu takes about three hours, so this is a special occasion restaurant – but refreshingly, it is devoid of the snooty hauteur that inevitably accompanies fine dining.

The chefs, who serve and explain each course, share an easy camaraderie which translates into a relaxed dining experience.

Bookings at https://www.farmlore.in/

Paint my love

Asrama, chronicling the work of artist G Subramanian, is on at KYNKYNY art gallery

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

There is no knowing the impact a word of encouragement can have on a flagging spirit. Artist G Subramanian recalls how his son asked him to work on a collage on a day when he was feeling blue.

"I told him I wasn't sure if collage making was the way to go, since I painted. Still he asked me not to overthink it, but to work on one. The very next day, a guest to our home saw the unfinished piece and booked it," says Subramanian, adding that was just the shot in the arm he needed.

That was in 2004. Today, an exhibition of his life's work spanning five decades, is now on in Bengaluru.

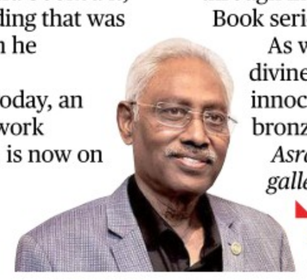
Subra, as he is popularly known, graduated from the School of Arts in Kumbakonam. "I completed my diploma in Commercial Art as I wanted to become a graphic designer and it was here I learnt the concept of collage making."

However, Subra did not pursue art as a vocation, choosing to work in an advertising company and participating in the occasional art contest. "In 2003, at the age of 51, I resigned my job to devote my life to art."

Now based out of Bengaluru, Subra turned to meditation and spirituality to help him grieve the loss of his daughter, an aspect that comes through in his Inner Line and Sacred Book series, and other works.

As with his art, a sense of the divine as well as a playful innocence, shine through Subra's bronzes.

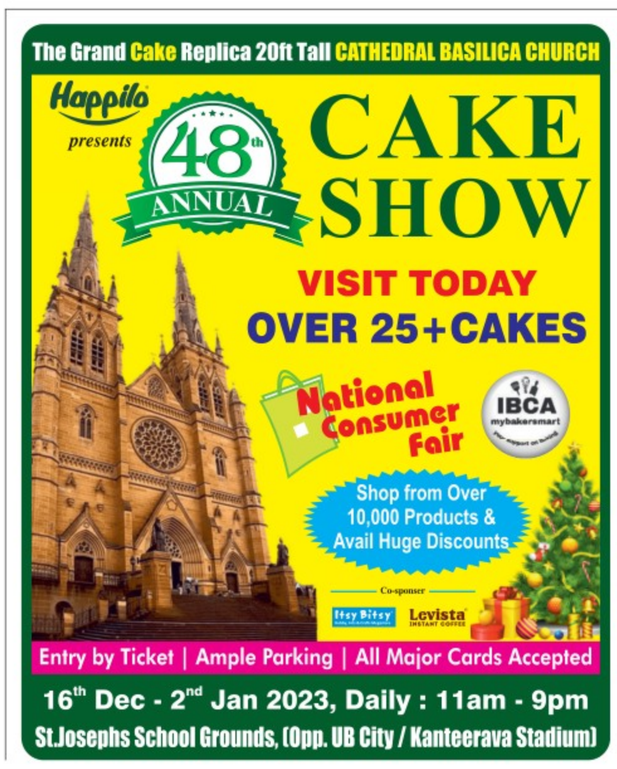
Asrama is on at KYNKYNY art gallery till December 31, 2022



Art of the matter Artist Subra and his work. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tribute to Coldplay

The band, Best Kept Secret, will present a tribute to Coldplay. They are known to bring in a twist to each cover track and have had 500 covers in over 45 cities across the globe.
At Hard Rock Cafe, December 24, 9pm onwards. Tickets, ₹1,000, on BookMyShow.



INBRIEF

1 lakh vacant govt. posts will be filled during 2022-23: CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said a total of one lakh vacant posts in different departments of the State government will be filled during 2022-23. Replying to a question raised by C.N. Manje Gowda in the Council, Mr. Bommai said there were a total of 7,69,981 posts in 43 different departments of the State government out of which a total of 5,11,272 posts had been filled. The vacant posts numbering 2,58,709 account for 34% of the sanctioned posts, he said, but added that necessary steps had been taken to ensure that the day-to-day work of the government is not disrupted.

Members complain about increase in wildlife attack

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra on Thursday told the State Legislative Assembly that leopard attacks on humans have increased owing to an increase in the number of leopards and an "imbalance" in the ecosystem. In reply to T. Narsipur JD(S) member Ashvin Kumar M. during Zero Hour, Mr. Jnanendra said leopards were venturing into human settlements owing to lack of food in the forests. The Home Minister, who hails from the Malnad region, said: "There has been an imbalance. Leopards have increased, but not their food," he warned. Mr. Kumar raised the issue and said there was fear among farmers and students in T. Narasipura taluk due to leopard attacks. Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri *(in picture)* suggested they come up with solutions to stop the entry of wildlife into human territory.

Stand-off in Council ends after BJP MLC withdraws remarks

A stand-off between the Opposition Congress and ruling BJP over certain "objectionable" references to a former Prime Minister of India by BJP MLC N. Ravikumar in the Legislative Council on Thursday ended after the latter withdrew his remarks. When the Congress was seeking a discussion on the allegation made by a BJP MP that the posts of Vice-Chancellors were "purchased", Mr. Ravikumar alleged that a former Speaker, belonging to the Congress, too had admitted to corruption since the time of a former Prime Minister, sparking uproar in the House. The Congress members were immediately on their feet protesting. Though Chairman Basavaraj Horatti directed that the BJP MLC's remarks be expunged, Leader of the Opposition B.K. Hariprasad sought an apology from the ruling party member. Eventually, Mr. Ravikumar withdrew his remarks.

Govt. to issue circular on *jayantis* following complaints

While the Chief Minister or a Minister will attend the *jayanti* celebrations of important personalities at the State level, the Minister in charge of the district will attend the event at the district headquarters and the MLA will attend the programme at the taluk level. This was the assurance given by Leader of the House in the Legislative Council Kota Srinivas Poojary in response to a Calling Attention Notice given by member K.P. Nanjundi Acharya, who alleged discrimination in the *jayanti* celebrations. He said the celebrations of personalities of several small communities were not only ignored by the government, but also saw disparities in financial allocations. While Kempegowda Jayanti and Basava Jayanti were celebrated in a grand manner with Chief Minister, Minister, and officials in attendance, the celebrations of smaller communities were ignored. A total of 31 *jayanti* celebrations of important personalities were held at State level, district level, and taluk level in a calendar year. The government releases ₹5 lakh to the Deputy Commissioner of each district and ₹50,000 is spent on the *jayanti* at the district level and ₹20,000 at the taluk level.

Bommai set to hold talks on Panchamasali quota; community suspends stir

Community leaders claim that the State government will accept their demand on December 29; CM expected to travel to Delhi on Monday to consult party leaders before taking decision

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Panchamasali Linagayat leaders, who are seeking reclassification of the subsect under 2A of OBC list for enhanced reservation in education and employment, on Thursday claimed at a massive rally in Belagavi that the State government would be accepting their demand on December 29. However, government sources said that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has sought about 10 days' time to resolve the issue, after consultations.

The leaders said they had suspended their agitation based on the assurance given by Mr. Bommai of a "time-bound" fulfilment of their demand. The Panchamasali community had threatened to lay siege to the Suvarna Soudha on Friday in Belagavi where the session is under way.

While the State Cabinet that met in Belagavi discussed the reservation issue informally, it is learnt that no decision was arrived at. Mr. Bommai is expected to travel to the national capital on Monday to consult senior party leaders and legal experts before taking a decision.

Earlier in the day, Chairman of the Karnataka Permanent Backward Classes Commission K. Jayaprakash Hegde submitted an interim report on claims of backward classes in reservation matters to the Chief Minister. Mr. Bommai also discussed the issue with a Panchamasali delegation that included senior community leaders Basannagouda Patil Yatnal, Murugesh Nirani and Ashokananda Kashappanavar, among others.

Panchamasali community is a numerically stronger sub-sect of Veerashaiva-Lingayat community that has remained the core vote bank for the BJP. They have been urging the government to move them from the 3B category, which has 5% reservation, to 2A category, which has 15% reservation. Sources said that the commission has recommended against the inclusion of the community under 2A category, but has suggested creation of a separate category to increase the quota.

Report submission comes at a time when several major caste groups, including Kurubas, Vokkaligas, and Marathas, are seeking change of category or increase in reservation quota. Sources in the commission said it is currently looking at such demands from 25 caste groups.

At the Virata Panchama Shakthi Mahasamavesha chaired by the seer Basava Jaya Mruthyunjaya, in the vicinity of the Survarna Soudha, leaders later in the evening claimed that the decision to provide higher reservation under category 2A would be announced on December 29 after the Cabinet meeting. Mr. Yatnal, who is spearheading the movement, told thousands of Panchamasalis who had gathered that they form 70% of the total Lingayat community.

Mr. Yatnal said: "The CM has sworn on his mother and God and I believe he will keep his word. In case, if it is not done, we will show him his place and work harder to send home in the next polls those who have worked against it."

Mr. Kashappanavar said the demand has been there for 28 years, and time has now come for the community to go to tahsildar's office and seek 2A certificate.

Members of Panchamasali Lingayat community at a demonstration in Belagavi on Thursday. P.K BADIGER

Vokkaligas step up demand

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

On the day the Panchamasalis stepped up pressure on the State government to increase quota, Health Minister K. Sudhakar said that a meeting to discuss the Vokkaliga demand for increasing reservation will be held under the leadership of Revenue Minister R. Ashok. He told reporters that the meeting will have Vokkaliga Ministers and legislators after which they will meet the CM to discuss the issue.

Karnataka Start-up Policy 2022-27 gets Cabinet approval

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Cabinet approved the Karnataka Start-up Policy, 2022-27, which proposes to establish 50 new-age innovation network (NAIN) centres - 35 in IT/electronics and 15 in bio-technology institutions of higher learning located outside Bengaluru Urban district. Karnataka formulated the first start-up policy in 2015.

Through the policy, the government has rolled out programmes with the objective of supporting start-ups in their business life cycle. The policy was formulated with the aim of positioning Karnataka as the 'Champion State' for start-ups and aims to stimulate the growth of 25,000 start-ups, and further increasing the number of high-growth start-ups by 2027, sources in the government said. The policy makes provisions for support of ₹5 lakh per student project, for a maximum of 10 projects in a year, for a period of three years, and annual financial support of up to ₹12 lakh towards operational expenditure per NAIN centre.

Women entrepreneurs

For promoting women entrepreneurs beyond Bengaluru, a venture capital fund would be set up by earmarking 25% of the ₹100 crore venture capital fund for start-ups by women.

The policy aims at identifying, supporting and nurturing start-ups from Kalyan Karnataka region; establishment of Rural Innovation Centre with a funding support of ₹15 crore at a government academic institution set up beyond Bengaluru.

Approval for ₹5,701-crore irrigation projects

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Cabinet on Thursday approved 13 irrigation projects costing ₹5,701.38 crore in the Bombay Karnataka region comprising Belagavi, Dharwad, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Gagad, Uttara Kannada, and Haveri districts.

Minister for Water Resources Govind M. Karjol said the Cabinet approved the Malligeri-Halagali lift irrigation project for lifting the Krishna waters for irrigation of 3,535 hectares in Mudhol and Bilagi taluks of Bagalkot district. The estimated cost of the project is ₹197 crore and it would be executed in two phases.

The Cabinet approved a revised cost of ₹14,133.17 crore for the Phase-I of the Namma Metro in Bengaluru and ₹3,740 crore for the implementation of the World Bank-aided drinking water project by the Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernisation Project.

BJP, Congress vie for post of Deputy Chairman in Council

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

BJP's M.K. Pranesh and Aravind Kumar Arali of the Congress have filed nominations for the election to the post of Deputy Chairman of Legislative Council, scheduled for Friday.

The two candidates submitted their respective nomination papers in the office of Legislative Council Secretary K.R. Mahalakshmi in Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on Thursday.

The BJP has 39 members in the 75-member Legislative Council. The Congress has 26 members, JD(S) has 8 members, while one is an Independent and one seat is vacant.

Mr. Hariprasad said the Congress hoped that the BJP would leave the post of Deputy Chairman to the Congress in keeping with the best practices of parliamentary democracy. He said the Congress, which facilitated the election of Basavaraj Horatti as Chairman of the Legislative Council unopposed, would not have fielded a candidate if the ruling party had fielded a woman.

Among the reasons for the Congress to field its candidate is a pending court case against Mr. Pranesh's election to the Council. The JD(S) said the Congress had not sought its support for the election. However, the BJP has sought support from JD(S). But, JD(S) leader Bhoje Gowda said the party is yet to take a decision.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai greeting M.K. Pranesh in Belagavi on Thursday.

Cabinet nod for State police transfer rules

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka State Cabinet on Thursday approved Karnataka State Police Department (Transfer) (Special) Rules, 2022, for transfers of police sub-inspectors, assistant sub-inspectors, police constables, first division assistant (FDA)/SDA/Dayalaths and Group 'D' employees of the department from one district to another or from one range/commissionerate to another.

Police constable (civil and CAR/DAR) should complete a minimum seven years of service for inter-district transfers, sources in the government told *The Hindu*. In case of ex-servicemen, he should have completed minimum three years of service.

In case of first division assistant (FDA)/SDA/Dayalaths and Group 'D' employees, they should complete probationary period for inter-district transfers.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಉನಸ:ಬಿ2:ಸಿಆರ್:ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ:31:2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.12.2022

ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2019–20ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ (ಉಳಿಕೆ ಮೊತ್ತ) ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ Standard Bid Document K. W-4ರ ನಿಯಮ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು (ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವಂತೆ) e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.udupicity.mrc.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

1) ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **05.01.2023** ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2) **Queries / Clarifications** ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **09.01.2023** ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
3) ಟೆಂಡರು ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.01.2023** ಸಂಜೆ **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
4) ತುಂಬಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.01.2023** ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
5) ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20.01.2023** ಸಂಜೆ **5.01** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
6) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.	ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸಾಕ್ಷನ್ ಫೀ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ
1	ನಗರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಅಂಬಾಗಿಲು–ಕಲ್ಸಂಕ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ತಾಂಗದಗಡಿಯಿಂದ ಮುಂದುವರಿದ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಮರುಡಾಮರೀಕರಣ DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT143187	104.00 ಲಕ್ಷ	1.56 ಲಕ್ಷ	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ	3 ತಿಂಗಳು

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ https://eproc/karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.com ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರು ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/ – ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

ಸಹಿ/ – ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Under Taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL NRBC Division No.5
Rodalbanda-584127, Tq :Lingasugur, Dist: Raichur
email:kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com

KBJNL/NRBC/D-5/PB /2022-23/ 634 & 633 Dtd:-22.12.2022

SHORT TERM-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NRBC Division No-5, Rodalabanda invites two cover percentage tender and Single coverpercentage tenderfrom eligible contractorsfor AME of Canalsfor the year 2022-23.

Cover Type	Two cover	Single cover
No of works	1	1
Indent No's	23357	23358
Access date for applying for tender	23-12-2022	23-12-2022
Last date for applying for tender	31-12-2022 till 5.00 PM	31-12-2022 till 5.00 PM
Opening of Technical Bid	02-01-2023 at11.00 AM	02-01-2023 at 11.00 AM
Opening of Financial Bid	04-01-2023 at11.00 AM	

The tenders will be opened in this officeas mentioned in the above dates. Further information can be had from the office of undersigned during the office hours & also from e-procurement http:/www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KBJNL, NRBC Div No-5
Rodalbanda

DIP/Raichur/500MC&A/2022-23

Assembly adopts 2 Bills

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Legislative Assembly adopted the Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022, that seeks to simplify the conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purpose.

The Assembly also adopted the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

D.O.B: 17.08.1938

D.O.D: 22.12.2022

Smt.MANGALAM RAJAGOPAL
W/o Late T.S. Rajagopal
passed away on 22.12.22
MOULI ENTERPRISES
No.1, Cross St, Postal Colony, West Mambalam, Ch-33.
Ph: 044- 2489 2732 / 7690
Deeply mourned by
Family & Friends

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

(ಆಯುಷ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ), ತಾರಾನಾಥ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಡಾ॥ ರಾಜಕುಮಾರ್ (ಅನಂತಪುರ)ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ. 583101

Ph.No:08392-260273, 261073, email: principaltgamc@gmail.com

ಪತ್ರ ಸಂ: ತಾಸಆಮ:ಸರಬ:04:2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.12.2022

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ತಾರಾನಾಥ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಅನಂತಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ. ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ 2022–23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳು, ಮತ್ತು ಪಿಠೋಪಕರಣಗಳು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡತೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಮೂರನೇ ಭಾರಿಗೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಇ– ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ	ಗ್ರೂಪ್	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.
01	ಉಪಕರಣಗಳು	ಎ	91,99,615	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ
02	ಪಿಠೋಪಕರಣಗಳು	ಬಿ	3,60,000	
	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.		95,59,615	

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಸಮಯ & ಸ್ಥಳ–ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.01.2023 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಾಚಾರ್ಯರ ಕೊಠಡಿ, ತಾರಾನಾಥ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಡಾ॥ ರಾಜಕುಮಾರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583101.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/731/ಎಂಪಿಎ/2022–23

ಸಹಿ/– ಪ್ರಾಚಾರ್ಯರು, ತಾರಾನಾಥ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583101

Tirumala temple hundi nets ₹1,000 cr. in 8 months

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The *hundi* at the temple of Lord Venkateswara here has been registering an increase in the income since the complete relaxations of COVID protocols in March.

The fact that the income has crossed ₹1,000 crore-mark in a span of eight months during the current financial year authenticated the gains being made by the temple *hundi*. The *hundi* income plummeted to ₹731 crore in 2020-2021 and ₹933 crore in 2021-22 when the country remained under the grip of the pandemic. Statistics point out at over 32% increase in the *hundi* proceeds when compared to pre-COVID years.

Karnataka HC issues guidelines to communicate whip of political parties

It says govt. has failed to frame rules for past 35 years under the Karnataka Local Authorities (Prohibition of Defection) Act

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has issued guidelines for communicating the whip issued by the political parties to its elected members to cast votes in a particular manner in the elections to the posts of president and vice-president of various local authorities under the Karnataka Local Authorities (Prohibition of Defection) Act, 1987.

The guidelines have been issued while noticing that the State government has failed to frame the statutory rules even after lapse of 35 years since the enactment of the Act. These guidelines would be in force till the government frames the rules under the Act.

Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda issued the directions while allowing the petition filed by Saritha, Chandani, and Godavari. The petitioners had challenged the legality of their disqualification from the membership of Mahalingapura town municipal council in Bagalkot district in 2021 for contesting and voting against the official nominees of the BJP in the elections held to the posts of president and vice-president in 2020.

Guidelines

- Political parties to submit copy of the whip to the competent authority at least five days prior to meeting
- Competent authority has to send the whip to members on the mode by which meeting notice is communicated to them
- There can be no disqualification if the political party failed to submit whip to the competent authority
- Political parties can send notices to their members through registered post, courier, or e-mail to seek permission to vote against whip

The court held that affixture of the whip on the doors of their houses without sending the whip through known manner of service, like registered post, etc. was not sufficient to hold that they were properly served with whip for disqualifying them for violating it.

Face disqualification

Pointing out that elected members of the local bodies attract the possibility of being disqualified under the Act only if they have not secured permission to cast the vote contrary to the whip or if their act of voting contrary to the whip has not been condoned by the political party, the court said that for this purpose proper of service of whip on the members is imperative. "The absence of statutory Rules has given rise to avoidable controversies and misuse by both the political parties and the elected members, which has in turn, resulted in the objective of ensuring disqualification to an errant member illusory," the court observed.

Taking advantage

Both the political parties and the members are taking advantage of non-framing of the rules to contend that there has been either a proper service or there has been no service to 'effectively defeat' the provisions of the 1987 Act, the High Court said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Cold day to severe cold day conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana and west Uttar Pradesh. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, north Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Sikkim and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.1	13.6	Kozhikode	—	34.4	22.4
Ahmedabad	—	29.8	12.8	Kurnool	—	32.3	17.2
Aizawl	—	—	9.0	Lucknow	—	25.0	8.4
Allahabad	—	28.1	9.4	Madurai	—	34.0	22.2
Bengaluru	—	28.2	14.4	Mangaluru	—	33.5	20.7
Bhopal	—	30.5	12.8	Mumbai	—	32.3	20.0
Bhubaneswar	—	27.6	14.6	Mysuru	—	30.2	17.4
Chandigarh	—	19.9	8.2	New Delhi	—	20.6	7.2
Chennai	—	29.7	23.0	Patna	—	24.2	11.4
Coimbatore	—	31.6	17.4	Port Blair	—	30.1	26.2
Dehradun	—	22.9	6.2	Puducherry	—	30.0	19.8
Gangtok	—	14.1	7.7	Pune	—	31.8	15.5
Goa	—	33.6	19.5	Raipur	—	30.3	13.9
Guwahati	—	27.7	14.6	Ranchi	—	25.2	8.8
Hubballi	—	32.0	15.0	Shillong	—	16.4	8.2
Hyderabad	—	30.2	16.4	Shimla	—	16.2	5.9
Imphal	—	22.7	6.5	Srinagar	—	11.5	-5.5
Jaipur	—	—	7.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.1	24.1
Kochi	—	31.2	24.2	Tiruchi	—	31.1	21.0
Kohima	—	19.0	6.0	Vijayawada	—	29.4	20.4
Kolkata	—	26.0	14.6	Visakhapatnam	—	28.7	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	22	141	33	37	71	Moderate
Bengaluru	8	7	62	114	95	Moderate
Chennai	24	65	46	236	137	Poor
Delhi	13	97	106	408	375	Poor
Hyderabad	10	6	47	217	132	Poor
Kolkata	18	38	39	359	253	Poor
Lucknow	8	46	151	232	178	Poor
Mumbai	50	178	88	409	272	Poor
Pune	—	97	78	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	35	41	42	257	162	Poor

Yesterday
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 418 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nandesari, Gujarat recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor / Moderate / Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Sahitya Akademi award for Chinnaswamy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy has won the Sahitya Akademi award for 2022 in the Kannada category for his work *Bahutvada Bhaarata Mattu Bouddha Taatvikate.*

The prize in the translation category has been given to *Sita Ramayanada Sachitra Maru Kathana* by Padmaraj Dandavati, brought to Kannada from the English original *Sita: An illustrated retelling of Ramayana* by Devdutt Pattanaik.

Awards were announced on Thursday for original works in 23 languages and 17 translations. The awards will be presented shortly in New Delhi, a release stated.

Reacting to the award, Mr. Chinnaswamy told *The Hindu*, "The book is a collection of essays focusing on plurality and diversity of India, the challenges to them and Buddhist thought. I feel the thoughts expressed in the book are very relevant today. So I am very happy to be awarded for this work of mine."

From Page One

'Boundary dispute a closed chapter'

The three-page resolution, moved by Mr. Bommai, condemned the statements by Maharashtra leaders on the border issue and also efforts by Maharashtra Ministers to "instigate" people by trying to enter Karnataka when the situation was sensitive.

Accusing Maharashtra of violating the instructions issued by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure peace, the resolution said these episodes would be brought to the notice of the Centre.

The resolution declared that there was no question of compromising on issues related to Karnataka's land, water, and language, and the interests of Kannadigas. Everyone was committed to initiating constitutional and legal measures unitedly to protect the State's interests, it added.

Petition in SC

The resolution accused Maharashtra of trying to affect the cordial relations between people of both States by filing a petition before the Supreme Court in 2004, despite the matter being closed with the report of the Mahajan commission. However, it had not been possible for the apex court to take up the matter since 2004 as only Parliament had the power, as per the Constitution, to re-examine the issues related to boundary, it said.

It said Maharashtra had rejected the Mahajan commission report though it had been formed at Maharashtra's own insistence.

Rajya Sabha nod to add more communities to ST list

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday cleared the way for the inclusion of the Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran hill tribes to the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamil Nadu and the inclusion of the Betta-Kuruba community as a synonym for the already categorised Kadu Kuruba tribe in the ST list of Karnataka, clearing the way for the President to officially accord them ST status.

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು **KW-4 STD** ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು : Providing and fixing Decorative Light and Median at (1) Kumta Kadamadagi (SH-48) ch. 272.35 to 274km in Town limit. (2) Chitradurga Turuvanuru Musturu Road ch. 0.00 to 3.00 km in Town Limit. (3) Gayatri Circle to NH-4 Service Road. (4) Anebagilu Fort Road to NH-4 Service road for Chitradruga Constituency Chitradurga Taluk and Town. **KPWD/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT161817**. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 302.20 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು.

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು The tenderer as a prime contractor having valid class-1 & above electrical license issued by Electrical Inspectorate, Govt. of Karnataka ರವರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20-12-2022 ರಿಂದ 30-12-2022 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30-12-2022 ರಂದು 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ),
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3672/ಶ್ರೇಪ್ರ/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF PRIVATE, PUBLIC AND NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR

(i) Collection and Analysis of Primary and Secondary Data for studies conceived by the State Planning Commission (ii) Conducting Evaluation/Impact Assessment Studies of Department Programmes /Schemes

RFQ for the above is invited by the undersigned for empanelling institutions & organization for State Planning Commission, Chennai - 5.

The RFQ in detail can be downloaded at **www.spc.tn.gov.in & www.tenders.tn.gov.in.** The RFQ document must be delivered in the office of the Member Secretary, State Planning Commission, Ezhilagam, 5th Floor, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005 on or before **20.01.2023 at 15.00 hours** and RFQ must be accompanied by a processing Fees **Rs.7,000/-** for each panel in the form of Demand Draft, drawn in favour of "Accounts Officer, State Planning Commission, Chennai" payable at Chennai.

A pre bid meeting will be held at SPC on 05.01-2023 at 15.00 hours. For queries, the bidders may email to **hodspc_pc@nic.in**

Member Secretary
State Planning Commission.
DIPR/5672/Tender/2022

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department Mangaluru Division Mangaluru
Ref :-PW:DIV:MAG:TND(63E/62E/61E/54E/43E):2022-23:AE-2: Dated: 21.12.2022

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION / Corrigendum

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under E-tendering in http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in portal from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTTP Act Indent No: 162059 **Under the Head Of Account:- 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements. Last date for reciept of above tender :06.01.2023 upto 16.00 Hours. And** Indent No: 160566, 160762 **Under the Head Of Account:- 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements.** Indent No:161055 **Under the Head Of Account :- 5054 MDR Bridge Last date for reciept of above tender: 30.12.2022 upto 16.00 Hours.**

Corrigendum This office refference Notification No: TND 62E/61E/54E/43E)2022-23:AE-2 :Dated :17.12.2022 for **3rd Call** Indent No. 153604, 153606, 153607, 153608 **Under the Head Of Account :- 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements And 2nd Call for** Indent No : 159955, 159953 **Under the Head Of Account:-3054 SH Roads, Indent No.**159957, **Under the Head Of Account:-3054 SH Bridges And Indent No.** 159956 **Under the Head Of Account :-3054 MDR Roads** (Rain Damage).There is no changes is remaining conditions. In the above Work Highest Cost of Estimate is Rs.900.00 Lakhs & Lowest Cost of Estimate is Rs.13.00 Any Change in dates of events and value of work put to tender and EMD amount etc only can been seen from e -portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/MNG/MCA/1034/22-23 dt.22.12.2022
Sd/- Executive Engineer

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-2/F-114/22-23/CYS-105 Date: 21.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites E-Tenders in the prescribed form from Super Grade Licensed Electrical Contractor for the following works in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/22-23/52 Date: 02.12.2022. Tender for replacement of (1 I/C+ 2F) CGL make age old PCVCB by new MEI PCVCB switchgears at 66/11kV MUSS, Naayakanahatti in 220kV RS & SS Division, Chitradurga.

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/22-23/58 Date: 20.12.2022. Tender for providing new (1+4+1) additional 11kv PCVCB switchgears for 66/11kv substation, Chikkajajuru in 220kv RS & SS Division, Chitradurga.

3) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/22-23/59 Date: 20.12.2022. Estimate for providing new (1+4+1) additional 11kv PCVCB switchgears for 66/11kv substation, Sasaluhalla in 220kv RS & SS Division, Chitradurga.

4) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/22-23/Call-4/ Date: 21.12.2022. Tender for Replacement of 03 no's of age old 11KV KIOSK Breakers by PCVCB's at 66/11KV MUSS J.G Halli in Chitradurga District.

No. SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/AEE-2/F-114/22-23/CYS-106 Date: 22.12.2022

1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/57 Date: 19.12.2022. **Short Term Tender** for Shifting of Existing 66KV Chitradurga-Hiriyur SC line at Location Bearing T.No.143 in Kunchigenal Village Limit to avoid Kendriya Vidyalaya School premises by TLM Section Chitradurga,220/66kV RS Division Chitradurga.

Tenders will be accepted through e-Procurement mode only. For further details prospective bidders are advised to log on to website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** & Click on to hyperlink e-Procurement-KPTCL to participate in e-Procurement portal **on or after 23.12.2022.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Near Stadium,
Hadadi Road, Davanagere. Ph: 08192-250774

KARNATAKA NIRAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Karnataka Government Enterprise)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN)-U85110KA1998SGCO24503
Fax & Phone No 08332-286223
Mail address:eeglbcknnldiv1@gmail.com
Office of the Executive Engineer KNNL GLBC Dn.No.1, Ghataprabha Tq: Gokak, Dist: Belgaum

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

Tender Notification No.KNNL/GLBC-1/PB//2022-23/1759 Dtd: 20-12-2022

Electronic percentage tender through E-procurement platform in prescribed form are invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL GLBC Dn.No.1, Ghataprabha on behalf of the Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd., Coffee Board Building Bangalore and from eligible KPWD Class-II & Above contractors

1. Work Details : 01 No. of Work under H/A 4701 M&MI Coming under KNNL GLBC Division No.1 Ghataprabha. 2. Tender Schedule for works is as follows

Last Date & Time for tenders Queries : 29-12-2022 upto 16:00:00 Pre Bid meeting Date & Time 27-12-2022 upto 11:00:00 Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : 29-12-2022 upto 11:00:00 Onwards Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid will intimate after approval of Technical bid. in the office of the The Executive Engineer KNNL GLBC Dn No.1,Ghataprabha. 3.Approximate Amount Put to Tender : Rs 199.66 lakhs 4. EMD amount Rs.3,00,000.00

For the details like Name of work, Eligibility of contractor, Tender conditions, Tender processing fee details refere website www.eproc. Karnataka. gov. in/ eportal/index.seam OR contact the undersigned during office hours (Ph No. 08332-286223.)

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
KNNL GLBC Dn.No.1,Ghataprabha.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1436/MCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **1.Mr.PRASADA REDDY PERAVALI,** S/o. Mr. Hanumanthareddy, Aged about 33 years, **2. NARASIMHA REDDY P,** S/o. Mr. Malli Reddy, Aged About 38 Years, and **3. SAINATHA REDDY.P,** S/o. Mr. Hanumanthareddy, Aged About 31 Years, SL No.1 and 3 are Residing at : No.2-12, G-Kothapalli, Raptadu Mandal, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh-515 722, SL No.2 is Residing at No.4/42, Chlyyedu, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh-515 721, SL No. 1 to 3 are intended to Purchase the schedule Property from its owner of **M/s. BHOO DEVELOPERS** having its office No.69, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Medahalli Extn, Medahalli, Virgo Nagar Post, Bangalore-560049, which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence within **Twenty (20) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Site No.22, Site No.24 and Site No.25,** Portion of Khatha No. 45/5, E-Khatha Sl. No. 150200401600320318, Converted Survey No.45/5, old Sy. No. 45/2, duly converted from Agricultural to Non Agricultural Residential purpose vide conversion order No. ALN(EBK)SR: 111/2021-22, dated: 10-03-2022, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore Situated at **Layout Known as "BHOO SIRI" Kodigehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,**

Site No.22
Measuring East to West on the Northern Side 43 Feet and on the Southern Side 44 Feet or (43+44)/2 Feet and North to South 30 in total Measuring 1305 Square feet, together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:-
East by : 30 feet Road,
West by : Private Property,
North by : Site No.23,
South by : Site No.21,

Site No.24
Measuring East to West on the Northern Side 41 Feet and on the Southern Side 42 Feet or (41+42)/2 Feet and North to South 30 in total Measuring 1245 Square feet, together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:-
East by : 30 feet Road,
West by : Private Property,
North by : Site No.25,
South by : Site No.23,

Site No.25
Measuring East to West on the Northern Side 41 Feet and on the Southern Side 41 Feet or (41+41)/2 Feet and North to South 30 in total Measuring 1230 Square feet, together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:-
East by : 30 feet Road,
West by : Private Property,
North by : Site No.26,
South by : Site No.24,

T.RAMESH KUMAR & MANJULA RAMESH Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank, Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036. Ph.No.9845601026
Bengaluru Date : 22-12-2022

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the **Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,**
Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi - 585102,
Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No.KWB/CEK/TEC/ AE-3/BUDA/1175 /2022-23 Date : 22-12-2022

-: SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call) :-

1) Detail of Work: Providing Water Supply & UGD facilities to BUDA layout Sy No.11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 34 of Gonal Village in Ballari under DC Works with BUDA Ballari (Lump sum Tender) (Work Indent No : KUWSDB / 2022-23 / WS / WORK_INDENT3229/ CALL-2), 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 929.07 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors. 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount : Rs.13,94,000/-, 5) Period of Completion : 12 Months (Including Monsoon), 5) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications : **27-12-2022 Up to 11:00 Hours**, 6) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **02-01-2023 Up to 17:30 Hours,** 7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **04-01-2023 After 11:00 Hours**, 8) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi - 585102, Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 9) Address of E-portail: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi
DIP/Kalaburagi/995/MC&A/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI
Office of the Executive Engineer, H & FWD Engineering Division, # PWD Quarters No: 110-D, Opp: HKES Womens Polytechnic Iwan-E-Shahi Colony Kalaburagi-585102
Phone/Fax No-08472 – 241982. E-Mail :ee.khsdrp.klb@gmail.com

No: HFW/EE/DIVN/KLB/AE-1/BM/ T.G/2022-23/929 Date: 20-12-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-2)

The Executive Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Division, Kalaburagi invite tenders in Two Cover Document system from eligible Class-III & Above contractors registered in KPWD, in e-procurement for **Package-I:** 1) Repairs & Renovation to PHC at **Farahatabad** in Kalaburagi Taluka of Kalaburagi District 2) Repairs & Renovation to PHC at **Wadagera** in Jewargi Taluka of Kalaburagi District 3) Repairs & Renovation to CHC at **Mudhol** in Sedam Taluka of Kalaburagi Dist (Balance works) 4) Repairs & Renovation to CHC at **Kamalnagar** in Aurad Taluka of Bidar Districts of the Health and Family Welfare Department Project Cost- **Rs. 90.00 lakhs** and stipulated period for completion- 03 months including monsoon- (Refer e-portal for the details).

Calendar of Events:
1) Last date for receipt of tenders **:04.01.2023 upto 16:00 hrs.** 2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : **05.01.2023 at 16:30 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the e-Procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
H & FWD Engineering Division, Kalaburagi
DIP/Kalaburagi/991/MC&A/2022-23

Public sphere vitiated

Controversies have dogged Twitter since Elon Musk's takeover

It has been nearly two months since business magnate Elon Musk took control of Twitter, Inc. after a $44 billion acquisition. The fear that there would be a loosening of content standards under his helmsmanship has played itself out to be eerily true. Yet, no one could have foreseen the chaos that has reigned since the takeover of the popular social media platform. There has been a whittling down of the workforce which has also included summary dismissals based on whimsical reasons. The loss of employees, especially those working in the appeals process and other content moderation teams, has hurt redress processes. Poorly thought-out decisions such as users paying a monthly fee to get a "verified account" have been overturned after an embarrassing increase in impersonation. The Twitter accounts of some journalists critical of Mr. Musk or who merely reported on a controversial decision by Mr. Musk to suspend the accounts of flight trackers have been suspended too without proper notice or explanation. Twitter also came up with a controversial rule about users not posting links to specific and rival social media platforms. This resulted in a severe backlash and forced Mr. Musk to post a poll asking his over 122 million followers whether he should step down as the "head of Twitter", and in turn eliciting a majority response in the affirmative. Mr. Musk has now promised to find another CEO.

The past two months have made it clear that Mr. Musk is out of his depth in running operations in a platform that has gained outsized significance and appeal despite being unable to remain a financial success consistently. For better or worse, Twitter has become a key member of the Internet public sphere, connecting journalists, public officials and powerful corporate leaders to the people and allowing for the dispersal of news, opinions and critiques, even if it has also retained aspects related to hate speech, bullying and disinformation. Twitter had tried to mitigate misgivings about the platform by coming up with content moderation principles and a rules-based order to govern content, although it has been a work in progress. But ever since Mr. Musk took over, this has been overshadowed by his arbitrary diktats and posturing. He seems to be aware that the loss of advertisers (a process that has continued because of the lowering of content standards) and of reputation (because of his arbitrariness) will further hurt the company's financial interests. This explains why he has agreed to step down. But his innate tendency of being a political reactionary seems to get in the way of doing the right thing. A more democratic and well-governed social media universe with newer platforms can help reduce the harm, but Twitter and its users also deserve better.

Beyond weapons

The U.S. should push Ukraine to find a solution to the conflict with Russia

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's visit to Washington, his first overseas travel since Russia's invasion on February 24, and the Biden administration's decision to send a new $1.8 billion military aid package, including Patriot missile defence systems and precision-guided missiles, are a testament to the deep relationship Ukraine and the U.S. share in the time of war. Ukraine has already received American financial and military funding from approved assistance worth around $54 billion. The U.S. supply of long-range missiles (HIMARS) has played a major role in Ukraine's recent battlefield advances in Kharkiv and Kherson, after its heavy losses in Donbas. The Patriot missile system is expected to strengthen Ukraine's air defences at a time when Russia is bombarding the energy grid and water supplies. In Washington, President Joe Biden discussed a 10-point peace formula with Mr. Zelensky (the details are unknown) and also promised continued support "for as long as it takes". Both leaders tried to send out a message of unity amid concerns of cracks in the western alliance as the war is continuing indefinitely with its massive economic costs.

The U.S. has gradually stepped up its supply of weapons to Ukraine, but is still wary of sending offensive weapons out of fears of escalating the conflict. Ukraine has relentlessly campaigned for more advanced weapons, including U.S. aircraft, tanks and long-range tactical missiles. While Mr. Biden said his administration would continue to back Ukraine, he also warned of the risks of sending offensive weapons to Ukraine, which could "break up NATO, the EU and the rest of world". Currently, Ukraine has a battlefield advantage, recapturing swathes of territories in the northeast and south. But Russia has air superiority. The Patriot missiles could offer some protection to Ukraine but could also prompt Russia to carry out heavier attacks. This leaves Mr. Biden in a dilemma. He is ready to bolster Ukraine's defence but does not want to provoke a wider war between Russia and NATO. His Ukraine policy should not be an open-ended weapons supply package. The U.S. could help its ally but it should also push for a sustainable solution to the conflict. It should use its continued support to Ukraine to mount pressure on Russia – as its weapons play a critical role in Kyiv's counterattacks – and persuade Ukraine to resume direct negotiations. At this point, no military solution seems likely. Unless there is a credible push for talks, the war is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Reshaping the world's responses to the terror matrix

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

The world has been witnessing a flurry of meetings and conferences on the issue of countering terrorism worldwide. The list resembles an alphabetic soup, *viz.*, meetings of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, the No Money for Terror Conference, and an Interpol Conference in which terrorism figured prominently. The recurring theme has been the need to wage a coordinated fight against terrorism. Nothing much, however, seems to have changed. India and Pakistan, for instance, among the most affected by terrorism, have continued to hurl invectives at each other instead of finding ways to cooperate to deal with the terrorism menace. Much of the world is continuing on their paths. None of this augurs well for the fight against terrorism.

The relevance of past instances

An oft-repeated comment is, hence, worth recalling, *viz.*, history is most relevant when it comes to ensuring a proper understanding of threats such as terrorism, which have a long-term impact. While there appears to be a lull as far as major terror incidents are concerned, it must not be lost sight of that it was as recently as at the beginning of this century that the world witnessed several landmark terror attacks. Two that stood out were the September 11, 2001 terror attack in New York, and the November 26, 2008 attacks on multiple targets in Mumbai. Both in their own way reflected the kind of paradigmatic changes that were taking place in the practice of violence. Both had profound strategic implications. The 9/11 attack heralded what came to be regarded as 'new age terrorism', while Mumbai underscored the dangers of state-sponsored terrorism. With these attacks the cognitive map of terrorism had changed.

This was confirmed by the series of major terror attacks that took place in 2015-16. The attacks on the Charlie Hebdo offices in Paris (January 2015) and on the Bardo Museum in Tunis (March 2015), were followed by the one in Istanbul (in which several were killed, in 2016) There was also the attack in Paris again, in November 2015 (in which at least 130 were killed, signalled not only the emergence of 'new age' terrorism but also the rise of new terrorist entities such as the Islamic State (IS) and the al Qaeda – each with their own caliphs.

During 2016, the IS launched several more spectacular attacks (some with its allies) across Asia, Europe and North Africa. The intensity has since declined to an extent, but this is offset by indications of new complicated patterns of relationships among various terrorist conglomerates. It has provided a fillip to many fringe extremist organisations that nurse a terror mindset. Hence, it would be wise for those in authority to heed the warning that terrorism could well prove to be the defining threat of not merely the present, but to future generations as well.

> Scrutinising declarations of a decline in levels of terrorism and reactivating the proposal for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism are some of the steps needed

Terrorism remains the omnipresent threat that it has always been. The locales may shift but the threat remains. While Europe and Asia remain in the cross hairs of different terrorist groups, Africa and northwest Asia appear to have become the main hunting ground of the al-Qaeda and IS terrorists. Linkages among terrorist groups, have if anything, become strengthened, and evidence of this was forthcoming very recently when al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri (successor to Osama bin Laden) was identified as living in Kabul in a 'safe house' maintained by the Haqqani Network (which has ties with Pakistan's intelligence). Zawahiri was eliminated in July 2022 in a U.S. directed 'Hell Fire' missile attack while he was still in Kabul. All this confirms, if confirmation was required, that al-Qaeda has both an advocacy and an advisory role, vis-à-vis, the Taliban in Afghanistan.

What is also becoming evident is that al-Qaeda's activities in particular are becoming more decentralised. It is finding fertile grounds in the Sahel region of Africa and in Eastern Africa, apart from its salience in Afghanistan. Among the al-Qaeda's firmest allies today is, undoubtedly, the Taliban. The Haqqani Network within the new Taliban government provides many an opportunity for al-Qaeda to find greater traction across the region.

A new mix

The belief that the growing ambit of terrorist activities was the primary reason for the recent spate of meetings on terrorism would, however, be misleading. Very little seems to have been discussed at these meetings on how to deal with the spate of newer terror groups, i.e., groups apart from al-Qaeda and the IS, whose ambit of activities had widened and become more widespread. There is again no indication that the meetings took stock of the fact that ideology intertwined with religious extremism had become an even more potent threat than previously. Instead, it would seem that the terrorist 'handle' had become a useful ploy for many governments to drum up support for their various initiatives, without much substance to their declarations.

Many of the past problems still remain. The declining level of serious terrorist incidents do not, however, translate into a decline in terrorism. No doubt, today's scaled-down attacks of little known targets do not attract public attention. But as in most other fields of human endeavour, it is the small incidents that portray what could happen in the near and the not too distant future. It would be unfortunate if counter-terrorism experts across India were not to read proper meanings into many recent terror attacks, such as the one in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Mangaluru (Karnataka) attacks. The incidents may appear relatively insignificant, but are symptomatic of growing radicalisation and suggestive of the fact that a sizeable base is being built in the southern region, which could lead to the creation of organisations on the model of the Indian Mujahideen (of the early 2000s). Constant and careful vigil by counter-terrorism experts is needed to keep track of not only these activities but also the kind of links that are being established (under the radar) by global terrorist outfits whose presence is not as widely advertised as that of al-Qaeda and the IS.

Measures needed

Hence, what is most needed by world leaders, at one level, is not to accept all declarations of a decline in levels of terrorism at face value and, at another level, not to treat some terrorists as good and others as bad, based on each nation's predilections. The next step is to reactivate the proposal for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) that has been languishing in the offices of the UN (since India first proposed this in the 1990s), and finalise the list of items needed to check terrorism globally. Acceptance of the CCIT would send signals far more potent than empty platitudes by world leaders at global conferences on the need to defeat terrorism. Once the CCIT is accepted by the UN, the war on terror would gain a new salience.

Additionally, counter-terrorism agencies the world over need to hone their skills and capabilities on how best to counter 'new age terrorism'. There is also a clear need for counter-terrorism agencies across the world to function in a more coordinated manner, exchanging both intelligence and tactics. They need to take stock of the newer patterns of terror such as 'enabled terrorism' and 'remote control terrorism', *viz.*, violence conceived and guided by controllers thousands of miles away, positing the dangers of Internet-enabled terrorism. Counter-terrorism experts will again need to enlarge their expertise to accommodate multi-domain operations, and undertake terror 'gaming', all of which have become essential in today's day and age.

In U.S. actions, the worry of global trade lawlessness

Prabhash Ranjan

is Professor and Vice-Dean, Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University

In a significant development in international trade law, four separate World Trade Organization (WTO) Panel reports have ruled that the tariffs of 25% and 10% on steel and aluminium, respectively, that the United States (U.S.) had imposed during the presidency of Donald Trump are inconsistent with WTO law. The cases were brought by China, Norway, Switzerland, and Turkey.

The WTO panellists held that these tariff rates breached the U.S.'s obligations under Article II.1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which obligates countries not to impose tariffs beyond bound rates. Further, these tariffs breached Article I of GATT because they discriminated between some foreign producers of steel and aluminium over others.

The national security defence

Importantly, the U.S. tried to justify its tariff hikes under Article XXI of GATT which allows countries to deviate from their trade obligations on grounds of national security. Specifically, Article XXI(b)(iii) of GATT allows a country to take any action 'which it considers' necessary for the protection of its essential security interests taken in time of war or other 'emergency in international relations'. Contrary to the U.S.'s flaccid assertion, the panel held that the national security rule in Article XXI is not entirely 'self-judging'. A panel can review the action of a state taken purportedly to protect its national security. The Panel's decision on this point is consistent with previous WTO jurisprudence laid down in the *Russia-Transit* and the *Saudi Arabia- IPR* cases.

The Panel rejected the U.S.'s argument that it increased the tariff rates due to global excess capacity, which could lead to excessive imports of these two commodities used in defence production, thus compromising the U.S.'s national security. The Panel held that the situation the U.S. referred to does not constitute an 'emergency in international relations' under Article XXI(b)(iii) because it lacked severity.

> The WTO Panel reports are a pointer to the U.S. — the once undisputed trade hegemon — turning away from free trade and moving toward growing protectionism

Neoliberal to geoeconomic order

For a deeper understanding, one needs to appreciate the larger political context in which this dispute arose. Anthea Roberts, Henrique Choer Moraes, and Victor Ferguson argue that the international economic order today is moving away from the post-Cold War neoliberal order toward a new geoeconomic order. In the neoliberal order, arguably, economic and security interests are relatively independent tracks. Neoliberalism is based on principles such as non-discrimination in international economic relations and a peaceful settlement of disputes through neutral international courts. It champions interdependence. These principles are achieved by legalising the neoliberal order through the creation of global institutions such as the WTO and a plethora of free trade and investment treaties. When the neoliberal order reigned supreme, the U.S. as the undisputed hegemon, supported free trade because it did not fear the growth of its strategic rivals such as China.

Although the neoliberal order is not dead, the avowedly independent economic and security tracks have started to converge, thus heralding the geoeconomic order. As the difference between the size of the Chinese and American economies began to shrink at a rapid pace, the U.S. seems to be giving up on championing free trade and swiftly embracing protectionism. The Trumpian tariffs wrapped in the cloth of national security, which the Joe Biden administration also backed, is a classic example of an American consensus on the geoeconomic order. The increasing use of the national security legalese to justify such economic nationalism is an attempt to blunt the possibility of international courts reviewing state action. This partly explains the U.S.'s erroneous argument that the national security defence is 'self-judging' and 'non justiciable'.

International trade lawlessness

The geoeconomic order will inevitably lead to what James Bacchus calls 'international trade lawlessness'. The Biden administration has rejected the WTO Panel's ruling calling it 'flawed'. Consequently, the U.S. will not remove the illegal tariff rates. Regrettably, the U.S. is using this ruling to double down on its unsound agenda of asking for reforms in the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism, which has been a shining star in the otherwise dull sky of international dispute settlement. The fear of being called out for economic nationalism by the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism has led the U.S. to block the appointment of judges to the Appellate Body – the highest court in the WTO – for the last several years.

The U.S. which always lectures countries such as Russia and China to steadfastly follow international law is turning its back to the rule-based order. This will only embolden other countries to brazenly pursue unilateralism and economic nationalism. In many ways, this unilateralism is reminiscent of the economic nationalism of the dark decades of the first part of the 20th century that led to the Great Depression and the Second World War. The days ahead will be trying times for the post-war liberal trade order because its most important chieftain seems to have lost interest in it.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COVID-19 and India

With COVID-19 raging in China, it is a foregone conclusion that cases will spread across the world (Page 1, December 22). The Centre should now focus on virus control and stepping up vaccination rather than resorting to strategies such as "lockdowns" and containment zones.

Kothapally Raju,
Hyderabad

With our array of different vaccines of proven efficacy, effectiveness, immunogenicity, safety, and lasting immunity, India is prepared to counter any spike in new infections. Natural immunity, hybrid immunity and a high rate of vaccination have all given our population the required protection. This is proven by the fact that sub-variant BF.7 driving the present surge of cases in China was previously identified in India, yet did not lead to a serious rise in infections. However, there must be emphasis on booster doses, increased genomic surveillance, screening of passengers at airports, and basic prevention protocols.

Dr. Biju C. Mathew,
Thiruvananthapuram

It is strange that the Government's Health Minister has written to the Congress asking its leader Rahul Gandhi to observe strict COVID-19 guidelines or suspend his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. Is the Minister indirectly admitting that India could face another massive wave? Or is it a political reaction to the yatra striking a chord? It cannot be forgotten that it was the Government that committed major blunders in handling the COVID-19 crisis. And what about the political rallying by leaders of the ruling party ignoring COVID-19 protocols? As a senior citizen, I want to know from the Minister why he has not asked for stringent checks on people travelling to India? One only hopes the poor are not made to suffer again.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,
Faridabad, Haryana

With the new year and many festivities round the corner, one hopes that the rise in cases in China does not cause problems. The Government needs to enforce safety measures.

Kartikey Singh,
Faridabad, Haryana

Forgotten stars

The report on the shabby way some of our hockey legends were treated in Chennai is shocking ('Sport' page, December 22). I recall an incident during my banking career days when a visitor was directed to me to raise a loan. I raised my head to see the legendary hockey captain who had won gold for India in the 1980 Moscow Olympics before me. I had tears.

C.K. Prem Kumar,
Kalvakulam, Palakkad, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Should the courts close for vacation?

Indu Malhotra
is a retired Justice of the Supreme Court

Devadatt Kamat
is a senior advocate of the Supreme Court

PARLEY

The Supreme Court of India goes on vacation for a week during Holi, 45 days during summer and for around two weeks during Deepavali and winter. This practice came into the news recently when Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said that no vacation Benches in the apex court would be available this winter break. He said this a day after Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju spoke of "long vacations" of the court and the inconvenience it caused to litigants. In a conversation moderated by **Sonam Saigal**, Justice (retired) Indu Malhotra and Devadatt Kamat discuss whether courts should close for vacations amid the overall burden of cases on them. Edited excerpts:

Why do courts go on vacation? Why can't they function like every other arm of our democracy and work all year round?

Indu Malhotra: India has the most overburdened judiciary. If we don't have vacations, judges will break down. Judges require vacations for rest. The time during vacations is also utilised for writing judgments because judges are left with little time to do this when the courts are working. On working days, from Monday to Friday, there is a huge workload. The Supreme Court has a minimum of 50-75 matters every day. Judges cannot discharge justice without having read the papers to pass appropriate orders. There are almost 25,000 cases which are filed each year. You cannot compare the court to other arms of democracy. Files have become more voluminous; issues are complex. To read, comprehend and make an assessment requires time and effort.

Devadatt Kamat: This debate is being played out by the government to pander to populism. Whether or not a judge or a lawyer should go on vacation cannot be dictated by people who have never practised law. We must see whether this system of vacations promotes efficiency in the delivery of justice or whether it creates a backlog of cases. If you compare judicial systems around the world, our Supreme Court is probably the most overburdened court. Australia's Supreme Court, for instance, has only 97 working days when oral arguments are adduced. India has around 190-195 working days. If you compare holidays, Singapore's Supreme Court has 145 holidays, the U.K.'s Supreme Court has about 180 holidays, and Canada's has about 120. It is important to understand that it is not only about recreation and rejuvenation. There is a lot of judicial work which is undertaken during vacations, such as writing judgments and doing research. These cannot be done during court timings. Our Supreme Court hears around 60-65 cases on miscellaneous days, which are Mondays and Fridays. Judges must dictate orders and write judgments which involve a certain degree of reflection. You can't make them work round the clock and expect them to deliver high-quality judgments. The Supreme Court website shows that the court gives a minimum of 10-15 judgments per day. On the other hand, the U.S. Supreme Court gives a maximum of 10-15 judgments a year. It is an accepted system the world over that if you want efficiency, you must give judges time. It's not like politicians cutting ribbons and giving speeches which have little or no consequence for the people.

The Supreme Court of India. REUTERS

Could you elaborate on the work done by judges during vacations?

IM: A judge's work is not limited to the hours spent in the courtroom. To be ready to hear cases in the morning, a judge must read through the evening and very often late into the night or the early hours of the morning. If there are conflicts of judgments between two High Courts or more, they require a lot of deliberation. We also draw upon jurisprudence from other countries, which entails a lot of research. Apart from that, each judge is given a chance to participate in national and international seminars and conferences. All these things must be factored in before a comment is made that we don't deserve these long vacations. Believe me, if we didn't have as many holidays in the Supreme Court as we do, it would be very difficult to function. We need that amount of rest, as it is cerebral work. We also need time to spend with our judicial law clerks and instruct them to get material which enriches the judgments. After dictating orders in the court, we must ensure corrections are carried out. And then our judgments also get circulated to our colleagues who go through them. They make their remarks. Then the fine-tuning takes place.

> The time during vacations is utilised for rest and for writing judgments because judges are left with little time to do this when the courts are working.
> INDU MALHOTRA

What happens to pending cases during vacations?

IM: Urgent matters are taken up during vacations. Vacation Benches are assigned, and we take turns. The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) matter was heard for several weeks during the summer vacation. (In 2015, a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court heard the matter challenging the constitutional amendment on the setting up of the NJAC.) If it becomes imperative, courts do sit during vacations and discharge matters which can be disposed of expeditiously.

DK: Judges require rest and so do lawyers. Lawyers form an important part of this process. If the judge must deliver a quality judgment, it also depends to an extent on how much assistance we give them. In the vacation Benches, there is a list of criteria, such as bail, death penalty, evictions. If there is an important matter which requires urgent consideration, the judges don't say, 'we are on vacation.' During the vacation in May 2018, the Supreme Court heard a matter challenging the appointment of B.S. Yediyurappa as Chief Minister, on a Sunday night. It heard Devendra Fadnavis's swearing-in matter on a Saturday. The Goa government's formation case was heard in 2017 during the Holi holidays.

The Law Minister said, "There is a feeling among the people of India that the long vacation which the courts obtain is not very convenient for justice-seekers."

IM: I disagree. The vacation we get is just about sufficient to enable us to discharge our functions and maintain our efficiency. It is not possible to work at a greater speed because the work is voluminous. You cannot imagine it until you enter the judiciary. I know of judges who have had breakdowns, developed high blood pressure as well as a lot of physical problems because of the enormous pressure of work.

DK: I disagree too. I don't think the Minister has ever practised law. If he did, I don't think he would have made such a comment. If an institution works for more days and puts in 18 hours of work, that does not necessarily result in efficiency. Here, every word a judge speaks affects the lives of the people, and there are matters of life and death.

In 1987, the Law Commission had suggested that there should be 50 judges for 10 lakh citizens instead of the 10 judges available then. This is yet to happen. Successive governments have failed to make a breakthrough. Is the burden of clearing the pendency only with the judges?

IM: The number of judges in the Supreme Court did increase. This helped a lot in clearing the pendency. But the volume of litigation has increased manifold. The judiciary caters to 1.4 billion people and the ratio is roughly 21 judges to a million.

DK: In the Supreme Court, we have five-six vacancies. Despite recommendations, it takes months for the government to make appointments. We need to ensure that the recommendations made by the Supreme Court are processed by the government on time and appointments are made.

The Indian judiciary's annual report states that during the pandemic, the Supreme Court decided 18,257 cases between April and September 2021. Do you think the judiciary is never applauded and only criticised by the current government?

IM: One democratic institution should not be making adverse remarks against the other, because everyone is trying their best. There are aberrations in every system and every wing which need not be highlighted because it does undermine public respect for the institution, which is not a healthy practice.

DK: Criticism of any democratic institution, if made with good intentions, is welcome. The attempt sought to be made today, where the executive has an overwhelming majority, tends to impinge upon the independence of the judiciary – although our judiciary is resolute and can defend itself and its independence.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Following the football World Cup craze in Kerala

The people of the State have found various ways of showing their allegiance to their favourite sport and players

P.K. Ajith Kumar

On the night the universe willed Lionel Messi to kiss the 2022 FIFA World Cup trophy, I was in Mumbai. I was covering a women's cricket series between India and Australia. There was no cricket match that Sunday, so I could watch the final football match live on television in my hotel room. At half-time, when Argentina was leading 2-0 against France, I told a colleague on the phone that only a Kylian Mbappé hat-trick could stop Messi from fulfilling his dream. As it turned out, even the Mbappé hat-trick wasn't enough.

The first football World Cup I followed closely was the 1986 edition held in Mexico. I was in school then and there was no television in Wayanad. I depended on the BBC World Service radio for updates on that World Cup, which was made unforgettable by Deigo Maradona. I remember commentator Bryon Butler describing the little master's second goal for Argentina against England in the quarter-final: "That is why he is the greatest player in the world. Diego Maradona 2, England nil." That goal is regarded by many as the greatest-ever one scored in a football field. But the legend had scored his first goal with his hand. "The hand of God," Maradona would say.

Little could I have imagined that decades later, I would interview the man who was the closest witness to Maradona's goals. When I met England's goalkeeper of that match, Peter Shilton, who had come to Kozhikode nine years ago for a function as part of the United Nations' 70th anniversary celebrations, he said his country could not forgive Maradona's first goal. "We felt we were cheated," he said.

Shilton is the joint record holder for the most clean sheets (10) along with France's Fabien Barthez. "But for Maradona, I could have had the record all by myself," he said that morning at the lobby of the Taj hotel in Kozhikode. He, however, appreciated Maradona's other goals during that World Cup, especially the one against Belgium.

By the time the football World Cup moved to Italy in 1990, television had finally arrived in my home town of Kalpetta. Those days, Doordarshan was the only channel available, and not all matches were telecast live. Some matches were screened the following mornings. But what is the fun in watching a match when you know the result? One fan - every man in his family played sport - found a way out: he would get up earlier than everyone else, get hold of the newspaper and hide it until the telecast of the match was over.

There are crazier fans in north Kerala during the World Cups. I met many of them during the 2018 World Cup; I was assigned by the Sports Editor to travel to Malappuram and write a feature on the district's well-known and enduring love affair with the beautiful game. There I met Nasib, who sold fish at half the market price the day his favourite team, Brazil, played. I also met Nabeel whose house was painted in different parts in yellow and green; white and light blue; and blue, white and red. The riot of colours was the handiwork of Nabeel and his cousins who wanted to declare their allegiance to Brazil, Argentina and France. I also went to an 'office room' rented by fans of Brazil. A Communist Party of India (Marxist) branch committee member told me that the party office was screening the World Cup match live on a big screen, something the rival party, the Indian Union Muslim League, also did.

This time, the huge cut-outs of Messi, Neymar and Cristiano Ronaldo erected on a river in a village near Pullavoor in Kozhikode district, which shares neighbouring Malappuram's passion, attracted global attention. When I went there last month, a few television channels were filming the 30-foot tall Messi, 40-foot Neymar and 45-foot Ronaldo. I also read about it in *Al Jazeera*. Messi, however, stood the tallest in Qatar.

ajithkumar.pk@thehindu.co.in

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

In Sri Lanka, some Christmas cheer during a crisis year

Colombo is lit up for Christmas after a grim year marked by an economic meltdown that led to severe power and fuel shortages. The government is hoping to draw more tourists in the coming year to help economic recovery. Getty Images

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 23, 1972

Delhi denounces U.S. bombing of Indian Embassy in Hanoi

New Delhi, Dec. 22: The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Surendra Pal Singh told the Lok Sabha to-day that the Government of India would record its "strongest protest" to the U.S. Government for its "indiscriminate bombings" in Vietnam which damaged the Indian premises in Hanoi yesterday. The Deputy Minister announced the damage caused to the Chancery buildings and staff quarters, a little before the House adjourned sine die. However, he assured the House that "happily all our officers and staff are reported to be safe".

Strongly criticising the resumption of bombing raids which had damaged civilian areas, many Embassy premises and diplomatic quarters, Mr. Surendra Pal Singh said the Government had protested last time to the U.S. Government on October 12 and the U.S. officials had expressed their regret and described the raids as "unfortunate" and unintentional. "Now we again witness repetition of the same indiscriminate bombing. Such ruthless bombing involving civilian life and property on a large-scale are a matter of the gravest concern to us."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 23, 1922

Rebel activity

London, Dec. 21: Irregulars infesting the Louggh district, warring against road and railway traffic, held up the Belfast to Dublin mail train six miles south of Dundalk, last night and ordered passengers out. They sprinkled coaches with petrol and switched blazing the train on to up line where it proceeded with full speed towards Dromin and collided with a goods train with armed engine from Dublin bearing munitions for the Free State forces at Dundalk.

From Page One

India, China agree to continue dialogue

"In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western sector," the MEA statement said.

Since the stand-off began in May 2020, the two sides have so far held 16 rounds of talks. Both sides disengaged from Pangong Tso in February 2021, from patrolling point 17 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area in August 2021 and from patrolling point 15 in early November. This is in addition to the disengagement from Galwan in 2020 after the violent clash there.

Last month, Army Chief General Manoj Pande said the situation along the LAC is "stable but unpredictable", adding that five out of the seven friction points have been resolved, with the focus now on the remaining two points. Infrastructure development is going on "unabated", he stated, noting that there are roads, helipads and airfields being built right up to the passes.

'No patrolling at several points on LAC'

The source said that "patrolling by both sides was affected in certain areas due to the events of 2020." These points were regularly patrolled before April-May 2020 when China started amassing troops close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"Post disengagement from the areas that are well known, both sides are not patrolling as per the understanding reached during the talks. The understanding to disengage is based on the principle of equal and mutual security without prejudice to the LAC claims. Both sides are currently engaged in talks to resolve the balance issues including aspects of patrolling," the defence source said.

Airports to resume testing 2% of international flyers for COVID-19 from tomorrow

Modi chaired a meeting with officials and discussed the preparedness of health infrastructure and logistics and status of the vaccination campaign; States told to share more samples for sequencing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The penultimate day of the Winter Session of Parliament saw a return to masks and a few other COVID-19 protocols following a global spike in number of coronavirus cases, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of top government officials to assess India's COVID-19 preparedness.

At Thursday's briefing, Mr. Modi directed officials to strengthen the ongoing surveillance measures, especially at international airports. Random testing of 2% of the passengers arriving on every international flight will resume from 10 a.m. on Saturday, the Health Ministry said. At the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, attendees discussed the COVID-19 situation, preparedness of health infrastructure and logistics, status of the country's vaccination campaign, and the emergence of new COVID-19 variants and their public health implications for India, said a statement from the PM's Office.

Mr. Modi advised the States to audit COVID-19-specific facilities to ensure the operational readiness of hospital infrastructure, including oxygen cylinders. The Prime Minister was told that there were enough medicines, vaccines and hospital beds. He directed officials to ramp up testing and also whole-genome sequencing efforts. The States have been asked to share more samples with the designated genome sequencing laboratories on a daily basis. "This will support timely detection of newer variants, if any, circulating in the country and facilitate undertaking requisite public health measures," read the statement.

Mr. Modi urged everyone to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour at all times, including wearing masks in crowded public places. Precaution doses should be taken, particularly by the elderly and those at heightened risk for infection, he said. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also made a statement on India's COVID-19 situation in Parliament.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar asked MPs to wear masks inside the House and spread awareness of COVID-appropriate behaviour.

COVID-19 tightens grips again

Omicron sub-variants are dominant in countries which reported a high share of cases in December. Booster doses administered per 100 people are listed

Country	Dominant variants	% cases#	Booster shots*
Japan	BF.5	31	127
U.S.	BQ.1, BQ.1.1	22	34
Brazil	BQ.1.1	46	57
S. Korea	BA.5.2	33	80
France	BQ.1.1	38	68
Australia	BR.2, BA.5.2	18	75
India^	XBB, XBB.1, XBB.3	51	16

*per 100 people | # dominant variants' share in total cases
^India's figures have been provided for reference

Global cases rising

A large number of cases are being reported globally, from countries including Japan, the United States, South Korea, France, Greece and Italy.

Mr. Mandaviya added the government planned to randomly test a 2% sample of all arrivals at all international airports to minimise the risk of ingress of any new variant.

Girls aged 9 to 14 to get cervical cancer jabs through schools

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The preventable and curable cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in Indian women

The government will roll out vaccination against cervical cancer for girls aged between nine and 14 through schools.

The decision was based on the National Technical Advisory Group for Immunisation (NTAGI) recommendation to introduce the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme.

India is expected to roll out the indigenously developed CERVAVAC vaccine by mid-2023. The vaccine has received the Drugs Controller General of India's approval and has been cleared by the government advisory panel NTAGI for use in the public health programme.

A one-time catch-up vaccine will be provided for adolescent girls in the 9-14 age group. Subsequently, it will be introduced at the age of nine.

The vaccination will be provided primarily through schools because of the high enrolment of girls. Those girls who are unable to attend school on the day the vaccination campaign is organised will be provided the vaccine at a health facility. Out-of-school girls will be reached through community outreach and mobile teams, according to a statement from the Education Ministry.

In a joint letter, the Union Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar and Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan have requested the States and Union Territories to issue appropriate directions for organising HPV vaccination centres in schools.

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women globally. In India, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women. India contributes the largest share of the global cervical cancer burden.

According to a recent study published in *The Lancet*, India accounted for nearly one in every four deaths globally due to cervical cancer.

India abstains from UNSC vote on Myanmar, calls for quiet and constructive diplomacy

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India, along with Russia and China, abstained from a UN Security Council resolution criticising Myanmar's military regime, and instead called for "quiet, patient" and "constructive" diplomacy with the junta.

The vote, which marked the first Security Council resolution on the situation in Myanmar in decades, and in particular, since the military overthrew the National Unity Government (NUG) in February 2021, demanded an end to the violence and the release of all political prisoners, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

The resolution (S/RES/2669 (2022)) proposed by the United Kingdom, which was passed by 12 votes, made several references to the importance of the "ASEAN" process, referring to the "five-point consensus" passed by the 10-nation Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) last year.

"We believe that the complex situation in Myanmar calls for an approach of quiet and patient diplomacy. Any other course will not help in resolving the long-standing issues which have prevented enduring peace, stability, progress and democratic governance," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, said. She added that the Resolution would only "entrench" the parties concerned in Myanmar, and its neighbours such as India would be among those most affected by the instability in that country.

> In view of our commitment to the democratic process and the well-being of Myanmar people, India has decided to abstain on this Resolution
> **RUCHIRA KAMBOJ**
> UN Representative

India's abstention is being criticised by human rights advocates in Myanmar as indicative of a soft position on the junta that has not only imprisoned most of the democratic leadership but has also prosecuted them on charges of treason. In an interview to *The Hindu* this month, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi appealed to India to "support ASEAN efforts", adding that distancing from the ASEAN-led process would not be effective in helping Myanmar.

Ms. Kamboj complimented the U.K. for taking the views of Myanmar's neighbours and ASEAN countries into account while drafting the UNSC resolution but said India could not support it.

"Quiet and constructive diplomacy is the desirable recourse for seeking constructive and enduring solutions in Myanmar... In view of these concerns and our firm commitment to the democratic process and the well-being of the people in Myanmar, India has decided to abstain on this Resolution," she said.

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In focus: India and the UNSC
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CBI charges A. Raja in disproportionate assets case

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has chargesheeted former Union Telecom Minister A. Raja, the incumbent Nilgiris MP, in a disproportionate assets case registered in 2015.

Upon completion of investigation in the seven-year-old case, the agency filed the chargesheet against Mr. Raja and five others in a special court for CBI cases in Chennai recently. The final investigation report accused Mr. Raja of accumulating assets to the tune of ₹5.53 crore, which it alleged, was disproportionate to his known sources of income.

A. Raja

The case was registered after the 2G spectrum allocation case in which Mr. Raja was accused by the CBI of bias in allotment of air waves and operating licences to telecom firms causing a huge loss to the state exchequer. A Delhi court later acquitted him of all charges in 2017.

The CBI registered the disproportionate assets case against the former Minister and 16 others, including his family members and associates, on August 18, 2015. The agency accused them of accumulating disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹ 27.92 crore. Based on preliminary investigation, the agency said the wealth was disproportionate to his known income sources during the check period October 1999-September 2010.

The chargesheeted case relates to the tenure of Mr. Raja as Lok Sabha member, Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare in the BJP-led government.

In the UPA government, he became the Union Minister of Environment and Forests and was then allocated the Communications and Information Technology portfolio in May 2007.

Chargesheet filed by NIA in Udaipur tailor murder case

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a chargesheet against 11 persons, including two Pakistani nationals, for their alleged involvement in the murder of a Udaipur-based tailor, Kanhaiya Lal, on June 28, which had led to a nationwide outrage. Two of the accused had allegedly slit the throat of Kanhaiya Lal, 48, with a cleaver.

The chargesheet filed in the NIA Special Court here stated that the accused, operating as a terror gang module, had conspired to take revenge. They were radicalised and they took inspiration from incriminating audios, videos and messages circulated from within and outside the country, it stated.

The chargesheet was filed under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act.

India's neighbourhood remains volatile and uncertain: IAF chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's neighbourhood continues to remain "volatile and uncertain" and amid this volatility, the country must enhance its collective strength by partnering with nations which share common beliefs and values, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) V.R. Chaudhari said on Thursday, while also taking note of the great power politics in the Indo-Pacific region.

"We must use our image as a stable country with considerable economic heft to forge mutually beneficial relationships and strategic partnerships. It is essential that we retain our strategic autonomy and to do that, in my opinion, a strategy of balancing... would be the way forward," he said at the 19th Subroto Mukherjee seminar organised by the Centre for Air Power Studies. Referring to the Indo-Pacific region, he said that India saw great power politics in play where an "established superpower is increasingly being challenged by an established regional power with global ambitions" and the "outcome will have repercussions for all major players in the region".

Air Marshal V.R. Chaudhari

Stating that in the existing world order, where national interests and realpolitik dictate the actions of state players, there would always be an overlap between competition and cooperation, the Air chief said India must develop its own strategy to survive and thrive amid this competition without losing sight of our objectives.

'Cong. vote tally will go up in 2024 polls due to yatra'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will deploy every tool in its arsenal to stall the Bharat Jodo Yatra since it too senses a change in the country's mood, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said on Thursday.

He added that the response the yatra had generated clearly showed that the party's vote tally would increase in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has maintained so far that the Bharat Jodo Yatra is not aimed at electoral gains and that it is largely a "movement". To a question on whether the yatra will bring electoral benefits for the party, Mr. Venugopal said, "Certainly. The entire cadre of the party, from bottom to top, is electrified. And not only the party workers, common people too are coming forward to join the yatra."

K.C. Venugopal

"More importantly, the false image that the BJP and the RSS had created about Rahul Gandhi stands demolished and people can see the real Rahul Gandhi," he said.

The impact, he said, will also be seen in the party's tally in the Lok Sabha election. "Our tally will improve in all the States. Look at Andhra Pradesh for example, we didn't have a robust organisation there and yet the yatra was a huge success. This signals a definitive change in the mood of the nation," he said.

Concern over bar on higher education for Afghan women

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday expressed "concern" over the decree issued by the Taliban banning university education for women in Afghanistan.

It reminded the Taliban about the UN Security Council Resolution 2593 that had called for upholding of women's rights in Afghanistan.

"India has consistently supported the cause of women education in Afghanistan. We have emphasised the importance of the establishment of an inclusive and representative government that respects the rights of all Afghans and ensures the equal rights of women and girls to participate in all aspects of Afghan society, including access to higher education," Arindam Bagchi, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said.

Guest teacher attacked by colleague dies

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Geeta Baraker, guest teacher in the government school of Hadli village in Nargund taluk of Gadag district, who was being treated at KIMS Hospital in Hubballi for injuries she suffered after being attacked by her colleague, died on Thursday.

According to Director of KIMS Ramalingappa Antaratani, the teacher was brought to the hospital on Monday in a state of unconsciousness. She was immediately put on ventilator in ICU.

According to doctors, she had suffered severe internal bleeding and cerebral edema (swelling of the brain).

Geeta was assaulted by her colleague Muttappa Hadagali. Earlier that day, he attacked her son Bharat and threw him off the first floor of the school building. Bharat breathed his last on the way to hospital. Geeta was shifted to KIMS Hospital. The accused also assaulted another colleague who came to save Geeta, causing him a few injuries.

The accused who was absconding after the ghastly act was traced and arrested the next day.

APPEAL

Master ROHIT MANOJ VARYANI, 13 years admitted in Christian Medical College, Vellore. Suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). Estimated cost of MUD Transplant **Rs. 35 Lakhs.**

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Rohit Manoj Varyani. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, R.A.Puram and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, You Can Donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI ID: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** E-mail: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Sonia's comment on judiciary was not appropriate, says V-P

Jagdeep Dhankhar has urged leaders not to subject high Constitutional offices to partisan stances

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankhar, has said that the recent statement by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi that there is a calculated attempt under way to delegitimise the judiciary is "inappropriate".

Reading out a brief statement in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Mr. Dhankhar said his "exceptional response" was unavoidable as Ms. Gandhi's observations were severely inappropriate, indicating a lack of faith in democracy.

Mr. Dhankhar said in any democracy, parliamentary sovereignty was inviolable.

"I had emphasised that democracy blossoms and flourishes when its three facets, the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive, scrupulously adhere to their respective domains. The sublimity of the doctrine of the separation of powers is realised when the Legislature, Judiciary and the Executive optimally function in tandem and togetherness, meticulously ensuring scrupulous adherence to respective jurisdictional domain," he said.

He added that Ms. Gandhi's statement was far distanced from his reflections.

"Delegitimising the Judiciary is beyond my contemplation. It is the pillar of democracy. I would urge and expect leaders across the political spectrum to bear in mind not to subject high Constitutional offices to partisan stances," Mr. Dhankhar said.

Centre received feedback on 'lack of transparency' in Collegium system, says Rijiju

Govt. has sent suggestions for supplementing procedure for appointment of judges, Law Minister tells Rajya Sabha; he recently said that issue of vacancies would linger till a new system comes in

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Union government has received various "representations" on the lack of transparency, objectivity and social diversity in the Collegium system of appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

In a written reply, Mr. Rijiju said the government had sent suggestions for supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

The MoP is a document which guides the appointment and transfer of judges in the higher judiciary.

Judicial appointments: Kiren Rijiju has said that there is no plan to bring back the National Judicial Appointments Commission. PTI

The Law Minister made these remarks in response to a question by CPI(M) member John Brittas, who asked if the government was planning to reintroduce the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).

Mr. Rijiju said the government had brought the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the NJAC Act on April 13, 2015 to make the Collegium system of appointments of judges "more broad-based, transparent, accountable and bring objectivity in the system".

However, both the Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court, which eventually declared both the laws unconstitutional and void on October 16, 2015. On December 8, in response to a written question by Mr. Brittas and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Rijiju had said there was no plan to bring back the NJAC with suitable modifications.

Apart from regularly targeting the judiciary, Mr. Rijiju recently told the Rajya Sabha that the issue of vacancies in the higher judiciary would linger till a new system of appointment was created.

Opposition's demand for debate on border row denied

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha saw multiple adjournments and the Rajya Sabha witnessed bitter exchanges between the government and the Opposition, which walked out after its persistent demand for a debate on the India-China conflict was denied, on Thursday, the penultimate day of the Winter Session of Parliament.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hosted a meeting of the Opposition leaders earlier in the day, to discuss a joint strategy to paint the government into a corner on its reluctance to debate the issue.

In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman Jadgeep Dhankhar rejected 12 notices under Rule 267 by the Opposition members, demanding the suspension of the day's business in order to debate the issues suggested by them. A majority of these notices asked for a debate on the India-China border conflict.

The Opposition members stormed into the Well of the House after their notices were rejected, despite fervent pleas from Mr. Dhankhar to restore order

Mallikarjun Kharge

in the House. The Chairman asked Leader of the House Piyush Goyal and Leader of the Opposition Mr. Kharge to see him in his chamber on the disruption.

Mr. Kharge underlined that the Opposition stands by the military and is only questioning the political decisions made by the government. "Don't look at that side for patriots, there are more patriots here," he said.

Mr. Goyal hit back at the Opposition, saying that if a debate on the India-China issue took place, many uncomfortable truths would be revealed.

He claimed that it was during the regime of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru that India lost 38,000 square kilometres of land to China, while a part of Kashmir was taken by Pakistan.

Agitated Opposition leaders shouted back at the Treasury benches and staged a walkout, with Congress leader K.C. Venugopal announcing that the Opposition was boycotting the day's proceedings.

However, MPs from the Trinamool Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam were seen participating in the proceedings later in the day.

The Lok Sabha also saw similar harsh exchanges between the two sides. At 11 a.m., soon after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla read out the obituary references of former members, Opposition members, led by the Congress, raised the border row with China and demanded a discussion.

Mr. Birla wanted to run the Question Hour but adjourned the House until noon when Opposition MPs did not relent.

Later, Mr. Goyal introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022 which was then referred to a Joint Committee of both the Houses, amid the protests. Following this, the House was adjourned for the day.

INBRIEF

Centre examining SC order on pension scheme: Minister

The Centre on Thursday said it was examining a Supreme Court judgment which upheld the Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2014 and allowed employees to opt for enhanced pension coverage in four months' time. Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameswar Teli was replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on whether the government was aware of the verdict and the timeline by which it would implement it and instruct the Employees Provident Fund Organisation to take actions, for giving higher pension. PTI

'Live-in relationships covered under domestic violence Act'

The Supreme Court and other courts have held that live-in relationships, which are in the nature of marriage, are protected under the provisions of the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said. "As per sub-section (f) of Section (2) of the aforesaid Act, 'domestic relationship' means relationship between two persons who live or have, at any point of time, lived together in a shared household, when they are related by consanguinity, marriage, or through a relationship in the nature of marriage, adoption or are family members living together as a joint family," he said spelling out provisions of the Act.

PIB has detected 977 cases of fake news since 2019: Minister

The fact-check unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) has detected 977 instances of fake news since its establishment in November 2019, according to the Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry. I&B Minister Anurag Thakur also said, "From April 1, 2018, till date, in 19 cases, newspapers were censured for publication of content related to fake news." Since December, 2021, the Ministry has issued direction for blocking 104 YouTube channels, 45 videos and 25 social media accounts, posts, apps and websites of digital news publishers, he added.

EC proposal to limit anonymous donations in cash being studied

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A proposal by the Election Commission (EC) to limit anonymous cash donations to political parties at ₹2,000 from the present ₹20,000 is under consideration, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

In a written reply to a question by Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) chief M. Vaiko about whether all political parties were consulted, Mr. Rijiju replied in the negative.

"The proposal is under examination," he said, on being asked whether the poll panel has proposed reducing anonymous political donations to ₹2,000 and cap cash donations at 20% or at a maximum of ₹20 crore.

The EC, in September, proposed these measures to cleanse election funding of black money. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had written to Mr. Rijiju recommending key amendments to the Representation of the People (RP) Act.

MoU with 'Austin University' leaves U.P. govt. red-faced

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Facing criticism over signing an MoU with the reportedly non-existent "Austin University", the Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday clarified that it had signed the MoU with the Austin Consulting Group of the U.S.

"The MoU has been signed with Austin Consulting Group and not Austin University. The U.P. government after receiving MoUs does due diligence and sincerely looks at the proposal before going ahead," Siddhart Nath Singh, who was part of the delegation to the U.S. when the MoU was signed, told *The Hindu*.

Greater Chennai Corporation
Special Projects Department
National Competitive Bidding S.P.D.C.No.B1/1281/2022
e-Tender is invited for the following work in Two Cover System as per details furnished below.
Name of the Work :-
Conservation, Revitalisation and Seismic Retrofitting of Victoria Public Hall in Dn.58, Zone-V under Singara Chennai 2.0 Approximate value of work Rs.28.92 Cr. (Inclusive of GST) - Submission of E.M.D. Rs.29,00,000/- through online net banking transaction on e-tender portal or Bank Guarantee.
Tender document will be available in website: https://tntenders.gov.in
The bidders must possess Digital Signature Certificate for submission of bids through online in the above website.
Pre-bid meeting date and time : 11.01.2023 at 3.00 p.m.
Tender last date and time of submission : 31.01.2023 upto 3.00 p.m.
Tender opening date and time : 01.02.2023 at 3.00 p.m.
Superintending Engineer (Special Projects)
DIPR / 5671 / TENDER / 2022

LOOKOUT NOTICE
Rahoof Ahammad, S/o Ahammad Kannu, Sanooja Manzil, Chilakoor, Varkala PO, Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram, AADHAR NO 455250046667 who id seen in the above photo, is accused in the Rajakkadu Police Station Cr. No. 808/22 u/s 406, 420, 468, 471 IPC. Those who have any information about this person should contact the nearest Police Station or on the following phone numbers.
Deputy Superintendent of Police Munnar : 949790060
Inspector of Police, Rajakkadu Police Station : 9497947170
Sub Inspector of Police, Rajakkadu Police Station: 9497980384
Rajakkadu Police Station : 04868 242325
RO/03103/f2/2022/I&PRD

NIAB राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India
Sy.No.37, Opp.Journalist Colony, Extended Q City Road, Gowlidoddi, Hyderabad. Telangana, India - 500032. Tel: +91 40 2312 0103, 115; Fax: +91 40 2312 0130, Email: admin@niab.org.in; Web: www.niab.res.in
Advertisement No.43 / 2022
Recruitment of Scientist - G
NIAB, Hyderabad, an autonomous institute under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, is aimed to harness novel and emerging biotechnologies and create knowledge in the cutting edge areas for improving animal health and productivity.
NIAB, Hyderabad invites applications from Indian citizens for the following positions:

Positions	Pay Level	No of post	Age Limit: 50 Years for Direct recruitment & 58 years for deputation (ISTC)/ Absorption
Scientist-G	Level 14	2(1-UR&1-OBC)	

Please visit NIAB website www.niab.res.in for detailed advertisement and online application form.
Date of commencement of online applications : 23-12-2022
Last date for receipt of online applications: 23-1-2023 (5 PM)
Sd/- DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.
e - Procurement NOTICE

1.	Name of Work	:	Construction of H.L.bridge under Biju Setu Yojana in the district of Bolangir and Subarnapur for the year 2022-23
2.	No. of Work	:	6 (Six) bridge Works.
3.	Time for Completion varies from	:	18 (Eighteen) to 24 (twenty four) calendar months
4.	Approximate Estimated Cost varies from	:	Rs.397.60 lakhs to Rs.1156.04 lakhs
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	:	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6.	Other details are as follow		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir.	BLGR-Online-18/2022-23	28.12.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	12.01.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	11.01.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	13.01.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later on

- Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir
O-1499: OIPR-25118/11/0023/2223

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LTD.
NIT No. 23 & 24/2022-23
E-BIDs in prescribed format from Bidders registered in A or AA class in Central/State Govt. departments/undertakings and registered in appropriate class in RVPNL in this Zone/Circle/Division under the jurisdictions of XEN (CIVIL) Bharatpur/Alwar/Jaipur City/Jaipur Rural are hereby invited for the work described in NIT No. 23/2022-23 having Sr. No. 01 to 09 and NIT No. 24/2022-23 having Sr. No. 01 to 13. All information regarding BID are available on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.rvpn.co.in and http://sppp.raj.nic.in.
UBN :- VPN2223WSOB01629 to VPN2223WSOB01630 (2), VPN2223WSOB01632 to VPN2223WSOB01633 (2) VPN2223WSOB01635 to VPN2223WSOB01651 (17) VPN2223SSOB01655 (1)
Raj.Samwad/C/22/12139 RRVPN/TR-5681/2022 S. E. (Civil), RVPN, Jaipur

SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES : TIRUPATI.
(A University established by an Act of A.P. State Legislature)
TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Tenders are invited through e-tendering process in ap-eprocurement platform (Two bid system) for the following:
(a) Medical Equipment (b) Equipment on reagent rentals.
For details log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.
Donate liberally to "SRI BALAJI AROGYA VARAPRASADINI SCHEME"
Director-cum-VC

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, RENGALI HEAD WORKS CIRCLE, SAMAL
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Email ID - seicsamal19@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. ACE-RHWC- 03 of 2022-23
(e-Procurement Notice No. ACE-RHWC-03/2022-23)
The Additional Chief Engineer, Rengali Head Works Circle, Samal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Irrigation work as detailed below:

1.	Name of the Work	: Irrigation works
2.	No of Works	: 02 (Two) Nos.
3.	Estimated Cost	: Rs.4,64,16,710/- & Rs.4,91,76,087/-
4.	Cost of tender paper	: Rs.10,000.00
5.	Class of contractor	: 'A' Class
6.	Period of Completion of work	: 11 (Eleven) Calendar months including monsoon season
7.	Date &Time of Availability of bid Document in the Website	: Dt.26.12.2022 from 10.00 A.M. to Dt.12.01.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
8.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	: Dt.13.01.2023 at 11.30 hours
9.	Place of opening of Technical Bid	: In the office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rengali Head Works Circle.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE biding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
A-910 : Additional Chief Engineer, Rengali Head Works Circle, Samal
OIPR- 32410/11/0002/2223

राजस्थान स्टेट सीड्स कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
तृतीय मंजिल, पंत कृषि भवन, जलपथ, जयपुर CIN : U75132RJ1978SGC001781, Website- www.rajseeds.org
Phone No. (0141) 5106516,2227514 E-Mail:- rajseedsgm@gmail.com
F3( )RSSC/RGKBUY/2022-23/22646 Date :- 21/12/2022
Notice Inviting Bid
Rajasthan State Seeds Corporation Limited, Jaipur invites Bids from interested Bidders for various supplies/ works as follows:-

S. No.	Particulars	Quantity	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Last date and time of online submission of Tender	UBN
1	Supply of 45 HP Tractor	33	200 Lakhs	Up to 14.00 Noon 02.01.2023	SDS2223GLOB00038
2	Supply of Battery Operated Knapsack Sprayers	660	10.89 Lakhs	Up to 14.00 Noon 02.01.2023	SDS2223GLOB00036
3	Rechargeable Kisan Torch	990	19.80 Lakhs	Up to 14.00 Noon 02.01.2023	SDS2223GLOB00037

Tender documents & Details are available on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/ www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.rajseeds.org/agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj.Samwad/C/22/12122 Managing Director, (DIN 08383856)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 124,125/SE/PHC/TSR/2022 -23, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - JJM-2022-23 - Providing Distribution network and FHTC to Puthur & Pananchery Panchayths, EMD : Rs. 500000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 17700/-, Last Date for submitting Tender : 10-01-2023 03:00 pm, Phone : 0487-2423230.
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1281-2022-23 PH Circle, Thrissur

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
No.: KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12855/Call-4 Date: 21.12.2022
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-procurement Portal Only)
Tenders are invited through GoK e-procurement portal: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from the contractors/agencies who are reputed individuals/ Company and having past experience for the work of "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Commissioning and Testing of Dust Suppression System With High Pressure Mist at MRHS Silo of Units - 1 & 2" at RTPS. EMD: Rs. 16,800/-. Last date for queries/clarification: 24.12.2022,16:00Hrs. Last date for submission of completed bids(2 Parts): 28.12.2022, 16:00Hrs. Opening of Technical Bid(Part-1): 30.12.2022, 16:30Hrs. Opening of Financial Bid(Part-2): 02.01.2023, 11:30Hrs. Further details can be had from the office of the Superintending Engineer(Mechanical Maintenance-1), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar - 584170, Raichur District, Karnataka State. Mobile No.: 82775 02820.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Project Central – 7) Annex-3 Building, 3nd Floor, NR Sqaure, Bengaluru-02
No:EE(P.C-7)/PR/316/2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022
TENDER CANCELLATION
Sub: Regarding cancellation of Tender for the work of Construction of New Urban Public Health Centres [New Hospital] Buildings at West Zone in BBMP Limits.
Ref: This office tender notification No. EE/PC-7/TEND/ 01/2022-23/Call-4 Dated 19-12-2022.
With reference to the above, the tender was invited by the Executive Engineer [Project Central-7] for the work of Construction of New Urban Public Health Centres [New Hospital] Buildings at West Zone in BBMP Limits in accordance to reference [1], the same was published in Vijaya Karnataka and The Hindu on 20-12-2022. The said tender is cancelled due to technical reasons, and the modified calendar of events will be updated in e-procurement.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, (Project Central - 7)

INBRIEF

Chhello Show, RRR song among 4 Indian Oscar entries

India has four entries, including *Chhello Show* in the best international film category and *Naatu Naatu* from the blockbuster *RRR* in music (original song), in the Oscars shortlist announced on Thursday. Besides the Gujarati film and the popular Telugu song, *All That Breathes* has made it to the documentary feature shortlist and *The Elephant Whisperers* in the documentary short category, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced. The final nominations for the 95th Academy Awards will be announced on January 24 and the final awards ceremony will take place in Los Angeles on March 12. PTI

SC to pronounce its verdict on demonetisation on January 2

The Supreme Court on January 2 is scheduled to pronounce its judgment on the legality of the demonetisation policy. A Constitution Bench of Justices S. Abdul Nazeer, B.R. Gavai, A.S. Bopanna, V. Ramasubramanian and B.V. Nagarathna has heard over 50 petitions challenging the demonetisation exercise. Earlier, the court had reserved the case for judgment on December 7. While reserving the case for verdict on that day, the Bench had directed the Union government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to place on record the "relevant records" of the demonetisation policy. Attorney-General R. Venkataramani had said the documents would be handed over to the court in a sealed cover.

SIT to probe death of former talent manager of Sushant

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday announced a Special Investigation Team probe into the death of Disha Salian, a talent manager who had worked with the late Sushant Singh Rajput, actor. The BJP and the Eknath Shinde-led Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena have been linking the name of Aaditya Thackeray, former Minister and son of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Uddhav Thackeray, with this case. "Nobody will be targeted in this case. The probe will be free and fair and will take place on the basis of new evidence," Mr. Fadnavis said.

Azad expels three leaders from his newly floated party

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday expelled three senior leaders from his recently floated Democratic Azad Party (DAP) for "anti-party activities". "DAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad has expelled three leaders, Tara Chand, Dr. Manohar Lal and Balwan Singh, from the party with immediate effect for anti-party activities," DAP general secretary Rajendra Singh Chib said. Mr. Azad launched his party in September and roped in scores of leaders from the Congress, his former party, into its fold. Mr. Chand, the party vice-chairman who is among the expelled, had served as Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in the past.

Centre rules out an increase in MSP for cotton, but farmers seek more

The relatively higher prices offered for the produce, which is above the MSP, has not offset the increased input costs, say farmers; bad-quality seeds and pest attacks add to the woes; they demand a ban on import of cotton and cotton seeds

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

While cotton farmers in several States have demanded an increase in the minimum support price (MSP) of the crop, the Union government has said that it is "watching" the cotton production scenario and will decide accordingly.

A senior official of the Union Textile Ministry told *The Hindu* that the domestic prices of cotton right now were higher than its MSP.

"MSP operations will kick in if prices fall. At this point, it is not necessary. We are fully ready to come into MSP," the official said, adding that the Cotton Corporation of India will start procurement if the market is unable to ensure the MSP.

The MSP for medium staple cotton for the 2022-23 kharif season is ₹6,080 a quintal. Though farmers said cotton got prices much higher than the MSP, it was inadequate given the rise in prices of inputs such as seeds, pesticides and fertilizers.

Need more: The minimum support price for medium staple cotton for the 2022-23 kharif season is ₹6,080 a quintal. NAGARA GOPAL

Price above MSP

For Praful Khandhadia, a cotton farmer from Rajkot, the fortunate absence of pink bollworm – a major menace – meant a comfortable production, though he had to contend with other problems.

"The income from cotton was not good in the past four years. So I have not cultivated cotton on about 60% of my land. Sowing was less, but the production was good. The harvest is going on. It will be over by mid-February," he said.

Mr. Khandhadia is able to get ₹8,500 a quintal at present. "It is higher than the MSP. Last March, some farmers got even ₹15,000 a quintal, but the production was very less. Given the increased input cost, the MSP should be at least ₹10,000 a quintal. We are selling the crop at ₹8,500 because of our immediate household and farm requirements," he said.

Dwindling yield

Harvest of cotton is over in Punjab. In Fazilka, a major cotton belt in Punjab, farmers are getting about ₹8,200 a quintal on average.

"The production was just three quintals on average for an acre here. We used to get at least 15 quintals from one acre. We have been demanding compensation for cotton farmers. The seed-supplying companies are the major culprits for our losses. They should be held liable for supplying bad-quality seeds. Cotton is a cash crop for us. Our lives are dependent on this. But the companies are looting us," Gurbhej Rohiwala, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta-Ugrahan) Fazilka district president, said.

In Maharashtra, some farmers have got as much as ₹12,000 a quintal, Ajit Nawale, All India Kisan Sabha's Maharashtra secretary, said. However, some have had a low production because of the pink bollworm attack.

"The prices are good because of the global situation. The import has decreased and that is the reason farmers are getting good prices. We have been demanding that cotton import should be banned at any cost. Along with this, cotton seeds import should also be stopped," he said.

Rajasthan HC rejects Robert Vadra's plea in PMLA case

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan High Court on Thursday rejected businessman Robert Vadra's petition seeking quashing of a money laundering case registered against his firm Sky Light Hospitality and stay on his custodial interrogation in the matter related to a controversial land deal in Bikaner.

The stay granted earlier by the court on the arrest of Mr. Vadra and his mother Maureen Vadra, both of whom are directors of Sky Light Hospitality, will continue for two weeks to allow them to file an appeal. They appeared before the Enforcement Directorate in 2019 in connection with a probe into the case registered against them under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in 2015.

A Single Judge Bench, which pronounced the judgment, had in 2019 lifted an earlier order for "no coercive action" against the partners of Sky Light Hospitality.

Former NSE CEO Chitra Ramkrishna granted bail

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former National Stock Exchange CEO Chitra Ramkrishna got bail from a Delhi court in a case pertaining to the illegal interception of MTNL lines at NSE from 2009 to 2017 and money laundering.

Counsel for the accused told the court that the Delhi High Court had already given bail to one of the co-accused, Sanjay Pandey, in the same case and hence Ms. Ramakrishna also deserved bail.

Pronouncing the bail order on Wednesday, the court said that considering the fact that the Delhi High Court has already granted bail to Mr. Pandey in the connected ED matter, which in light of Section 45 of the PMLA embodies far more stringent conditions for grant of bail, there is no reason to decline bail to the applicant in the present case.

The bail was granted on the condition to furnish a personal bond in the sum of ₹1,00,000 with two sureties in the like amount.

Sahitya Akademi Awards announced, Anuradha Roy among 23 winners

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tamil author M. Rajendran, Telugu writer Madhuranthakam Narendra and Sanskrit poet Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani' are among the 23 authors who won the Sahitya Akademi awards for 2022 announced on Thursday.

Anuradha Roy has been selected for her English novel *All the lives we never lived*.

The Bhasha Samman will be given to Udaya Nath Jha for his contribution to the field of classical and medieval literature in the eastern region. Seventeen books have been selected for the translation awards which included *Yaad Vashem* by N. Nallathambi and *Akupacha Kavithalu* by Varala Anand.

The selections in 23 languages include seven books of poetry, six novels, two collections of short stories, three dramas, two literary criticism works and one each of autobiographical essays, collection of articles and literary history. The awards, recommended by jury members, were approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi, which met on Thursday.

Anuradha Roy

In Assamese language, Manoj Kumar Goswami won the award for his collection of short stories *Bhool Satya*. Gulam Mohammad Shaikh won in Gujarati for *Gher Jatan*, a collection of autobiographical essays, while Mr. Rajendran won in Tamil for his novel *Kala Pani*.

Other languages

Winners in other languages are: Maya Anil Kharangate (Konkani), Praveen Dashrath Bandekar (Marathi), Mr. Madhuranthakam Narendra (Telugu), Anis Ashfaq (Urdu), Veena Gupta (Dogri), Kamal Ranga (Rajasthani), K.B. Nepali (Nepali), Farooq Fayaz (Kashmiri) and Rashmi Choudhury (Bodo).

M. Thomas Mathew won the award in Malayalam for his work on literary criticism, *Ashaante Seethayanam*, while Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy won in Kannada for a collection of articles, *Bahutvada Bhaarata mattu Bouddha Taatvikate*. The award for Bengali works will be announced later.

The Sahitya Akademi 'Yuva Puraskar' was awarded to Pawan Nalat for his Marathi poetry collection *Mi Sandarbha Pokharatoy*. The Bal Sahitya Puraskar has been given to Ganesh Marandi for his Santali book *Hapan Mai*. The books were selected based on the recommendations by a three-member jury in each of the languages.

Armed forces get nod for acquisitions valued at ₹84,328 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

21 of the proposals, worth ₹82,127 crore, are approved for procurement from indigenous sources

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Thursday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 24 capital acquisition proposals estimated at ₹84,328 crore.

Six each of the proposals are for the Army and the Air Force, 10 for the Navy and two for the Coast Guard. An AoN is the first step in the long-winded procurement process.

The proposals include those for futuristic infantry combat vehicles, light tanks, naval anti-ship missiles, multi-purpose vessels, a new range of missile system, long-range guided bombs and next-generation offshore patrol vessels, a Defence Ministry statement said. Twenty-one estimated at ₹82,127 crore are for procurement from indigenous sources, the Ministry said.

"The AoNs accorded will equip the Indian Army with platforms and equipment such as futuristic infantry combat vehicles, light tanks and a mounted gun system providing a quantum jump to Indian Army's operational preparedness. Proposals approved also includes procurement of ballistic helmets, with enhanced protection level, for our soldiers," it said.

Approvals for the Navy include naval anti-ship missiles, multi-purpose vessels and high-endurance autonomous vehicles which the Ministry said would enhance maritime strength and give a boost to the Navy's capabilities.

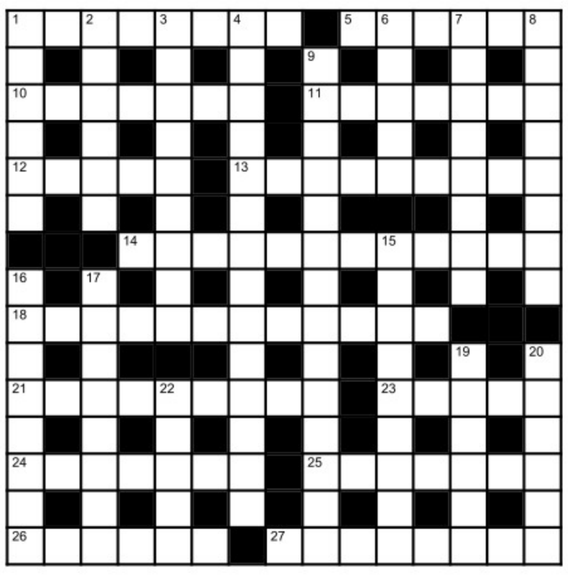
The statement said the IAF would be strengthened with enhanced lethal capabilities by the induction of a new range of missile system, long-range guided bombs, a range augmentation kit for conventional bombs and advanced surveillance systems.

TH CROSSWORD + 13744

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Shoot a troublesome person in European city (8)
5 Start to arouse model, one enthralled by drink in chamber (6)
10 Thrill in brief romp with lad (7)
11 Everybody wearing cravats and suits (7)
12 Series on one channel, primarily relating to mystic symbols (5)
13 Start with new nicotine patch initially (9)
14 General practitioner provided comfort daily (6,6)
18 Car, say, with fancy chrome - love it! (5,7)
21 Lump of metal covers set with power device in engine (5,4)
23 Nawab bothering, confining head of monks (5)
24 Strange buzz with bit of ale in bar (7)
25 Cut and go, slashing right of point for runs (4-3)
26 Fake tears produced by whiz at the end (6)
27 Winning with a little aggression, possible after capturing rook (8)

Down

1 In anticipation of headache, takes drug with bit of food (6)
2 Condescends with snide cracks about girl (6)
3 Subtly hush a little child kept by couple in stroller (9)
4 Delicate person invites nervously to propose in lodge (9,5)
6 Flower in revolting dump outside Long Island (5)
7 Pioneer's popular, not very corrupt (8)
8 Young lady's brief article, sarcastic, showing contempt for men (8)
9 How kid tucking into jam might be thievish (6-8)
15 Leak finally found in dilapidated oriental ship transporting fuel (3,6)
16 Leaving out love letter (8)
17 Associates like to cuddle couple of models with desire (8)
19 Hold a rifle, turning to protect small boy (6)
20 Check set of steps crossing top of fence (6)
22 Well-groomed maiden looked after houses (5)

SUDOKU

					4		5	1
	9					8		3
			1		6		9	4
						6	4	
6				1				8
	8	2						
4	5		7		2			
2		3					8	
8	7		9					

No.SS5657 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	9	7	1	6	5	4	8
8	7	4	5	2	3	9	6	1
5	6	1	8	9	4	3	7	2
1	4	5	2	7	9	8	3	6
7	9	6	3	8	1	4	2	5
3	2	8	6	4	5	7	1	9
9	1	3	4	5	2	6	8	7
6	5	7	1	3	8	2	9	4
4	8	2	9	6	7	1	5	3

FAITH

Rama bhakta Hanuman

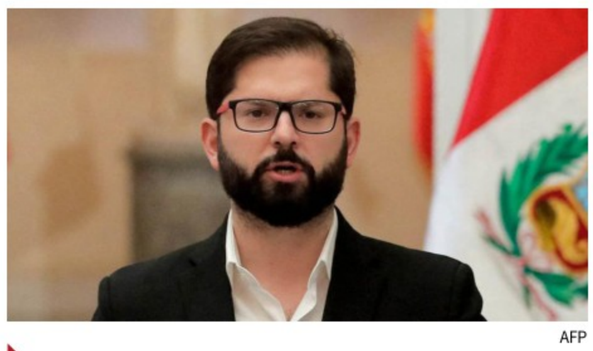
Hanuman is one of the most powerful forces among the faithful to this day. His tejas, power, wisdom, ability to think on his feet, an analytical mind, weighing the pros and cons of a solution to a problem before taking a step forward, Hanuman is the embodiment of belief in the all pervasive Lord Rama, said Dhamal Perundevi in a lecture. He remains a chiranjeevi on earth, through the blessings of Rama and Sita.

When He first comes across Hanuman in Kishkinda, Rama tells Lakshmana that only someone who is well versed in the four Vedas can articulate so well. In Narayaneeyam, Narayan Bhattadri says that while the search party for Sita sets off in different directions, Rama calls Hanuman aside and entrusts His ring with him as He is aware that only Hanuman can succeed in the mission. Not only does he present Rama's ring to Sita, but he also brings her choodamani (ornamental headpiece) to Rama. As both Rama and Sita caress the ornaments, Hanuman is conducting an atma vivah, as it were. Hanuman attains the stature of an Acharya through this successful mission. This particular act of Hanuman's is the essence of sarangati sastra.

Interestingly, when Valmiki finished composing the Ramayana, and named the particular canto as Hanumath Kandam, Hanuman in all humbleness objects. When Rama says His mission on earth is complete and it is time to return to Vaikunta, Hanuman demurs. "You have embraced me at the end of Sundara Kanda. I cannot shed my mortal coil, because when you embraced, both you and Sita entered my heart. Allow me to stay on and spread the word of Rama namam," he says. Rama blesses him.

SANTIAGO

Planning to open embassy in Palestinian territories, Chile says



AFP

President Gabriel Boric of Chile, whose country has the largest Palestinian population outside West Asia, said on Wednesday that he planned to open an embassy "in Palestine". The announcement by the leftist President came at a Christmas ceremony for Chile's Palestinian community. AFP

TAIPEI

Chinese military sends 39 planes, 3 ships toward Taiwan in 24 hours

AP

China's military sent 39 planes and three ships toward Taiwan in a 24-hour display of force directed at the island, Taiwan's Defence Ministry said on Thursday. Those planes flew to the island's southwest and then horizontally all the way to the southeastern side before doubling back, according to Taiwan. AP

GLASGOW

Ahmed Aslam Ali, inventor of chicken tikka masala, dies aged 77

AFP

A chef from Glasgow, who claims to have invented the curry dish chicken tikka masala, died at the age of 77, a family member told on Wednesday. Ahmed Aslam Ali, who invented the dish by improvising a sauce made from a tin of tomato soup at his restaurant Shish Mahal in the 1970s, died on Monday morning. AFP

WASHINGTON

Wagner Group bought N. Korean weapons for Ukraine war, U.S. says

REUTERS

The private military company, Wagner Group, took delivery of an arms shipment from North Korea to help bolster Russian forces in Ukraine, the White House said on Thursday. The U.S. estimates that Wagner has 50,000 personnel deployed in Ukraine, including 10,000 contractors and 40,000 recruited from Russian prisons. REUTERS

Ukraine is alive and kicking, will not surrender: Zelensky

Ukrainian President voices gratitude for aid; says American money is not charity, but 'an investment for global security and democracy that is handled in the most responsible way'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Show of support: Joe Biden (right) and Volodymyr Zelensky meet in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC. AFP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday directly appealed for long-term U.S. support on his first foreign trip since Russia's invasion, saying aid was not "charity" and had helped keep his country "alive and kicking".

Three hundred days after Russian leader Vladimir Putin attacked Ukraine with hopes of swift conquest, Mr. Zelensky enjoyed a hero's welcome on a lightning trip to Washington where President Joe Biden committed nearly $1.8 billion in military supplies including, for the first time, the Patriot missile defence system.

Mr. Zelensky – whose media savvy and rugged demeanor have helped rally world opinion – wore his trademark green military fatigues as he held talks at the White House and addressed Congress, where he handed over an Ukrainian flag fresh from the battlefield.

As Congress finalises a new package of $45 billion, Mr. Zelensky voiced gratitude and said the New Year would mark the "turning point" in the fight against Russia.

"Against all odds and doom-and-gloom scenarios," Mr. Zelensky said in a speech that drew standing ovations, "Ukraine is alive and kicking."

"Your money is not charity. It's an investment in the global security and democracy that we handle in the most responsible way," Mr. Zelensky said.

Comparing Ukrainian forces to Americans on the frontlines in the Second World War and the Revolutionary War, Mr. Zelensky said that Russians "burn and destroy everything" in a way "similar to the other tyranny" of Hitler.

"Ukraine holds its lines and will never surrender," Mr. Zelensky said to applause.

Mr. Biden, wearing a tie in the blue and yellow colours of the Ukrainian flag, affectionately put his hand over the wartime leader's shoulder as he saw him for the first time in person since the war began.

"You will never stand alone," Mr. Biden told him at a joint news conference. "The American people are with you every step of the way and we will stay with you – we will stay with you – for as long as it takes."

"Together I have no doubt we'll keep the flame of liberty burning bright and the light will remain and prevail over the darkness," President Joe Biden said.

'U.S., Ukraine refusing to hear Russia's concerns'

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia on Thursday accused Ukraine and the United States of turning a deaf ear to its concerns after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a historic visit to Washington.

"We can say with regret that so far neither President Biden nor President Zelensky have said even a few words that could be perceived as potential readiness to listen to Russia's concerns," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Thursday.

They continue to blame the closure of diplomatic channels on Mr. Zelensky, who has said he will not negotiate while President Vladimir Putin is in power.

Elderly COVID-19 patients fill hospital wards in China

Agence France-Presse
CHONGQING

At risk: An elderly patient lies on a stretcher at the emergency ward of a hospital in China's Chongqing on Thursday. AFP

Elderly patients lined the wards of hospitals in major cities in China on Thursday as the country battled a wave of COVID cases. The virus is surging across China in an outbreak authorities say is impossible to track after the end of mandatory mass testing.

Attached to a breathing tube under a pile of blankets, an elderly man racked with COVID-19 lay groaning on a stretcher in the emergency department of a hospital in central China on Thursday.

A paramedic at Chongqing Medical University First Affiliated Hospital, who confirmed the man was a COVID patient, said he had picked up more than 10 people a day, 80 to 90% of whom were infected with coronavirus.

The senior citizen waited half an hour to be treated, while in a nearby room were six other people in sick beds surrounded by harried doctors and relatives.

Five were strapped to respirators and had obvious breathing difficulties.

Staff at the Chongqing hospital had their hands full, ferrying elderly patients to different floors as families and other visitors hovered anxiously.

A passing inpatient ward doctor confirmed the hospital had been very busy with COVID patients but declined to elaborate.

In Shanghai too, the corridors of an emergency department were lined with stretchers filled with elderly people hooked up to oxygen tanks.

Netanyahu forms new government

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

He forms coalition backed by ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties and an extreme-right bloc

Veteran leader Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he had formed a new Israeli government on Wednesday, returning to power as the head of the most right-wing coalition in Israel's history.

Following his November 1 election win, Mr. Netanyahu secured a mandate to form a government backed by ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties and an extreme-right bloc.

That result left him poised to end Israel's unprecedented era of political gridlock that forced five elections in less than four years, and replace the ideologically disparate coalition that ousted him in 2021.

Mr. Netanyahu, who is fighting corruption allegations in court, has already served as premier longer than anyone in Israeli history, including a 1996 to 1999 stint and a record 12-year tenure from 2009 to 2021.

Turkey, Saudi decry Taliban university ban

Associated Press
KABUL

Turkey and Saudi Arabia became the latest Muslim-majority countries to condemn a decision by Taliban authorities to bar women from universities, while about two dozen women staged a protest in Kabul on Thursday.

The country's Taliban rulers earlier this week ordered women nationwide to stop attending private and public universities effective immediately and until further notice.

Afghan universities were declared off limits to women because female students were not following instructions including a proper dress code, the Taliban's Minister for Higher Education said on Thursday.

Despite initially promising a more moderate rule, the Taliban have widely implemented their interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, since they seized power in August 2021.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday said that the Taliban are trying to sentence Afghanistan's women "to a dark future without opportunity" by banning them from attending universities.

Fiji PM refuses to concede poll defeat

Agence France-Presse
SUVA

Fiji's Prime Minister said on Thursday the military had been deployed to maintain "law and order", as the former coup leader refused to concede defeat after a close election.

Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, who has led Fiji since coming to power in a 2006 military putsch, cited unsubstantiated reports of post-vote ethnic violence. There are growing concerns Mr. Bainimarama is preparing for the military to step into the political process again.

Japan reverses nuclear plan adopted post Fukushima crisis

Associated Press
TOKYO

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town

Japan on Thursday adopted a new policy promoting greater use of nuclear energy to ensure a stable power supply amid global fuel shortages and to reduce carbon emissions, in a major reversal of its phase-out plan following the Fukushima crisis.

The new policy says Japan must maximize the use of existing nuclear reactors by restarting as many of them as possible and prolonging the operating life of old reactors beyond their 60-year limit, and by developing next-generation reactors to replace them.

Anti-nuclear sentiment and safety concerns rose sharply in Japan after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, and restart approvals have since come slowly under stricter safety standards. Utility companies have applied for restarts at 27 reactors in the past decade. Seventeen have passed safety checks and only 10 have resumed operations. That was in line with Japan's earlier plan to phase out nuclear energy by 2030.

In a reversal, the new policy says nuclear power provides stable output and serves "an important role as a carbon-free baseload energy source in achieving supply stability and carbon neutrality" and pledges to "sustain use of nuclear power into the future."

(Public Works Department)
Executive Engineer,
Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.
Invitation for Tender (I.F.T.) No.: 41/2022-23
Date: 20.12.2022
(For Road Works – As per Standard Bidding Document K.W. – 4 in two cover system)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the Undersigned invites Tenders in two cover system through e-procurement portal from eligible Contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **20.12.2022 to 19.01.2023 up to 4.00 pm. (1)** Last date for objections-doubts and clarifications: **10.01.20223 (at 3.00 pm during office hours). (2)** Last date for submission of filled tenders: **19.01.2023 (up to 4.00 pm). (3)** Date of opening Technical Bid: **20.01.2023 at 04.00 pm.** (Financial Bid will be opened after approval of Technical Bid). For more information visit website **www.kpwd.gov.in** or contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 401/ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/2022–23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BBMP Complex, Behind Upparapete Police Station, Bengaluru-560009
No.: EE/GNR/TEND/E-PROC/21/2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) CALL-2
(Shot Term Tender Notification: Two Cover System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations Class-1 contractor for the work mentioned in the statement below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	EMD (Rs. in Lakh)
1	Comprehensive development works and allied in Lakshmanpuri Slum, Himalaya Slum, Muneshwara Block Slum, Vivekananda Block Slum and surrounding slums connecting roads in **Ward No. 77 & 94. PKG-2 / Call-2**	18.74

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka from **26.12.2022. (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **30.12.2022** at **11:00 a.m.** in the Office of the Chief Engineer (West)., Bhasham Park, Shesharipuram, Bengaluru. **(3)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **02.01.2023** and the opening of the tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical bids will be opened on the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division on **04.01.2023** at **12:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BBMP

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Kanataka Enterprise)
The Office of Executive Engineer, No.4, HLBC Division, CNNL, Turuvekere. Tel. 08139-287353
E-Mail-eeturuvekerediv4@gmail.com
E-Procurement Item rate Short-Term Tender Notification No : 12/2022-23 Dated : 17.12.2022 'Two Cover System'

On behalf of the Managing Director CNNL, Banglore, Executive Engineer No.4, HLBC Division Turuvekere has invited Two cover Item rate tender through e-Procurement from Contractors. Karnataka transparency act GO no FD9PCL2004 Dated 06-08-2005 and as per latest amendements, Registered in procurement cell Centre for e-governance Room no 141, 2nd gate M.S. Building, Bangalore-560001 KPWD/CPWD /ID/ any other Govt. organization and enrolled their name in CNNL.
Name of Work:- 1. Construction Of CC Road to Madhihalli sc colony, CC Road &CC Drain for SC Benificiaries of Shankaranagara, CC road & CC drain to SC colony New Extension of Kanchaghtta village of Tiptur taluk. (Indent No : 39650), EMD Amount : Rs.1,05,900 /-
* Form fees as provided in E-Portal, Period for completion of work (Inclusive of monsoon period) 04 months. Eligible contractor catageory - III and above * Submission of filled tender documents, last date for obtaining under E-Procurement blank form,for online E-Procurement for payment of EMD Dated: **22.12.2022** to **31.12.2022.** (upto 4.00 PM) * Last date for any queries relating to process of bid clarification Dated: **27.12.2022** (upto 4.00 PM). * Opening of Technical bid in E-Procurement on Dated: **02.01.2023** (after 4.30 PM), * Opening of Financial bid after approval of technical bid. For any further details please contact https://eproc.karnatak.gov.in and in office during working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
No.4, HLBC Division,CNNL Turuvekere.
DIPR/TUM/796/MCA/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–38/ಜೆಇ/2022–23/2735 ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 20.12.2022
ಇ– ಪ್ರೊಕೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ–38/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.12.2022..
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹರಿಹರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ– 3 ಮತ್ತು 4 ರಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
1) ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಾಯಕೊಂಡ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಲುವರ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಡಿ.ಎ.ಜೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಗುಡಾಳು ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಕಿ.ಮೀ. 0.00 ರಿಂದ 2.20 ಮತ್ತು 5.60 ರಿಂದ 7.65ರವರೆಗೆ ಆಯ್ದ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ. (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) ರೂ. 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷ 2) ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲುಕು ಕಣಿವೆಬಿಳಚಿ–ಕೋಗಲೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ. 5.80 ರಿಂದ 7.00ರವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ. (160514) ರೂ. 150.00 ಲಕ್ಷ 3) ಹರಿಹರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಲೇಬೆನ್ನೂರಿನಿಂದ ವೈ.ಎನ್. ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ (ಜಿಗಳಿ, ಯಲವಟ್ಟಿ ಮೂಲಕ) ಕಿಮೀ 5.50 ರಿಂದ 6.10 ರವರೆಗೆ (ಯಲವಟ್ಟಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪರಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ) ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ (155237) (2 ನೇ ಕರೆ) ರೂ. 250.00 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ–48 ಬಸವಪಟ್ಟಣ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸೇರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ–50 ಮಾರ್ಗ ಸಾಗರಹೇಟೆ–ದೊಡ್ಡಘಟ್ಟ–ತ್ಯಾವಣಿಗೆ–ದುಮ್ಮಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ. 24.00 ರಿಂದ 25.00ರವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದು.(160488) (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು 5) ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಾರಿಗನೂರು–ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೊಳೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ–ಕನಗೊಂಡನಹಳ್ಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (2.00 ಕಿ.ಮೀ) (162548) ರೂ. 140.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 29.12.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 30.12.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/725/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

INBRIEF

Lupin recalls hypertension drug Quinapril tablets in U.S.

Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc. is voluntarily recalling four lots of Quinapril tablets in the U.S. to the patient level. It follows the presence of a nitrosamine impurity observed in recent testing above the acceptable daily intake level, the wholly owned U.S. subsidiary of Lupin said. The tablets were manufactured by Lupin in Goa. An angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, Quinapril tablet USP is indicated for the treatment of hypertension.

India Parliamentary panel bats for law to rein in Big Tech

An Indian parliamentary panel recommended the government enact a digital competition act to regulate anti-competitive business practices by big tech firms on their platforms. PM Narendra Modi's government has had strained relations with many large technology firms, and New Delhi has been tightening the regulation of firms such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. A specialised digital markets unit should be established within the competition watchdog, the panel said. REUTERS

Zydus gets U.S. FDA nod for generic hypertension tablet

Zydus Lifesciences subsidiary Zydus Worldwide DMCC has received final approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) to market Selexipag Tablets in different strengths. Indicated in adults for treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension, the reference listed drug of the approved product is Uptravi tablets. The drug will be manufactured in the group's formulation facility at Ahmedabad SEZ. Selexipag tablet had annual sales of $577 million in the U.S., the company said citing IQVIA numbers.

Need taxonomy, definitions to avoid 'greenwashing': Rao

Green infrastructure investment trusts, green bonds can help financing of green projects, says RBI Deputy Governor; stresses need for regulated entities to assess climate-linked financial risks

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao on Thursday called for a taxonomy on green finance to avoid the risk of "greenwashing". Green financing refers to lending to environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Speaking at an event here, Mr. Rao said a formal definition of green finance along with a taxonomy "is the need of hour" and added that it will enable more precise tracking of finance flows to green sectors.

"A taxonomy would help banks and financial institutions in better assessing the climate risk in their loan portfolio, scaling up... sustainable finance and mitigating the risk of greenwashing," he said.

Climate caution

With India looking to increase green financing to help mitigate climate change impacts, risks of 'greenwashing' also rise

- Clear definitions, taxonomy will help lenders better assess climate risk in their loan portfolio
- A list of environmentally sustainable activities will aid flow of financing to the sector

- Given India's climate commitments, green infrastructure investment trusts can help scale up financing, says RBI's Rao

The call for clear definitions and a classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities, comes at a time when India is looking at increasing green finance to help the climate. Greenwashing refers to dishonest practices aimed at duping people.

Mr. Rao also said that green infrastructure investment trusts could help scale up green finance, given the need to rapidly scale up finance because of the country's climate commitments.

"There is a need for regulated entities to develop and implement comprehensive frameworks for understanding and assessing the potential impact of climate-related financial risks in their business strategy and operations," the senior RBI official added.

Cutting China trade ties risks India's growth: Panagariya

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Amid demands for snapping trade ties with China for border transgressions, former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya said cutting trade ties with Beijing at this juncture would amount to sacrificing India's potential economic growth.

Instead, Mr. Panagariya suggested India should try to enter into free trade agreements with countries such as the U.K. and the EU to expand trade.

"Engaging China in a trade war at this juncture will mean sacrificing a considerable part of our potential growth," the eminent economist cautioned.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,826	-0.39
US Dollar	82.79	0.06
Gold	55,241	-0.04
Brent oil	81.69	-0.09

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3868.55	-33.40
Adani Ports	856.90	-0.75
Apollo Hosp	4781.70	15.50
Asian Paints	3088.55	18.90
Axis Bank	919.55	-12.75
Bajaj Auto	3600.85	-10.20
Bajaj Finserv	1544.30	-37.50
Bajaj Finance	6490.65	-36.05
Bharti Airtel	816.60	2.60
BPCL	327.90	-6.20
Britannia Ind	4391.45	-27.40
Cipla	1122.45	-5.55
Coal India	222.70	-1.15
Divis Lab	3495.90	-22.85
Dr Reddys Lab	4349.25	-58.30
Eicher Motors	3206.05	-67.20
Grasim Ind	1744.85	11.95
HCL Tech	1039.10	-1.25
HDFC	2644.45	-12.40
HDFC Bank	1612.05	-5.55
HDFC Life	577.85	2.45
Hero MotoCorp	2727.70	-29.75
Hindalco	455.50	-1.65
Hind Unilever	2645.35	-20.85
ICICI Bank	890.65	-1.60
IndusInd Bank	1180.15	-21.65
Infosys	1522.05	12.50
ITC	332.45	-2.70
JSW Steel	737.55	-5.55
Kotak Bank	1826.05	11.45
L&T	2109.95	-36.35
M&M	1233.95	-31.75
Maruti Suzuki	8334.35	-16.05
NestleIndia	20306.60	-7.60
NTPC	165.90	-2.05
ONGC	142.25	-1.25
PowerGrid Corp	215.00	-1.05
Reliance Ind	2577.80	-6.70
SBI Life	1244.75	10.40
State Bank	593.40	0.00
Sun Pharma	1010.65	5.05
TataConsumerProduct	798.65	-3.95
Tata Motors	394.45	-8.15
Tata Steel	107.65	-1.75
TCS	3259.70	-8.85
Tech Mahindra	1015.85	-10.20
Titan	2483.00	-6.60
UltraTech Cement	7012.40	61.70
UPL	729.35	-25.55
Wipro	388.75	-0.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.56	82.88
Euro	87.74	88.08
British Pound	99.77	100.17
Japanese Yen (100)	62.47	62.71
Chinese Yuan	11.83	11.88
Swiss Franc	89.16	89.50
Singapore Dollar	61.16	61.41
Canadian Dollar	60.63	60.87
Malaysian Ringitt	18.64	18.73
Australian Dollar	55.61	55.83

Source:Indian Bank

'Shriram Finance plans to foray into supply chain funding'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Shriram Finance Ltd. plans to foray into new segments such as supply chain funding and education loans, said a top official.

"We are a new entrant and trying to offer new products," said Y. S. Chakravarti, MD & CEO.

As per the plan, first in the line would be the introduction of supply chain funding next month, followed by education loans.

Y. S. Chakravarti

The average ticket size of each loan would be between ₹10 lakh-₹30 lakh and had the potential to fetch about ₹10,000 crore in four to five years' time. The educational loan portfolio would be about ₹5,000 crore, he added.

RIL unit to buy Metro Cash & Carry in India for ₹2,850 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Reliance Retail Ventures, a unit of Reliance Industries Ltd., said it had signed agreements to acquire 100% equity in Metro AG's Metro Cash & Carry India Pvt. Ltd. for ₹2,850 crore.

Germany's Metro began operations in India in 2003, introducing cash-and-carry business format in the country. In the financial year ended September 2022, Metro India logged sales worth ₹7,700 crore.

Air India Express CEO Singh to helm AI's merged budget airline

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India Express CEO Aloke Singh will helm the group's low-cost airline set to be created by merging AirAsia India with Air India Express, the Tata group-owned Air India said.

AirAsia India's CEO Sunil Bhaskaran will assume leadership of AI's newly set up training academy, Air India Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson informed employees.

Last month, Air India bought out budget carrier AirAsia India by purchasing the balance 16.3% stake held by Malaysia's AirAsia Aviation Group in the Tata group joint venture.

Air India also announced that AirAsia India would be merged with Air India Express to create a single Air India group low-cost carrier.

The merger process is expected to take about a year to conclude, during which time the route network of the two airlines would be synergised.

Sport

Manjeet overcomes Sayon to win his maiden 55kg Greco Roman crown; Gyani retains 60kg title

In control: Manjeet brings down Sayon in the 55kg title bout. K.R. DEEPAK

NATL. WRESTLING

Y.B. Sarangi
VISAKHAPATNAM

It was a better-late-than-never moment for 30-year-old Manjeet, who overcame a stiff challenge from fellow Armyman L. Sayon, of Manipur, to win his maiden title in 55kg Greco Roman category in National wrestling championships at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Thursday.

Manjeet, from Jhajjar in Haryana, secured a 5-0 lead in the first period of the final and employed his strong defensive skills to maintain his lead and secure a dream outing.

"Injuries affected my career. I had a few National medals before, but this is my first gold," said Manjeet.

Gyanender Gyani, a 2019 Asian bronze medallist, rallied to beat Vikram 3-1 and retain the 60kg title. "I have won several medals but I am struggling due to the lack of sponsorship despite being in an Olympic weight," he said.

The medallists: Greco Roman: 55kg: 1. Manjeet (SSCB), 2. L. Sayon (Man), 3. Rohit Yadav (RSPB) & Rupin (Har); **60kg:** 1. Gyanender Gyani (SSCB), 2. Vikram (Mah), 3. Saurabh (U.P.) & Sumit (Chd); **63kg:** 1. Sagar (SSCB), 2. Nitin (RSPB), 3. Sandeep (Har) and Umesh (Del); **67kg:** 1. Karanjit (Pun), 2. Sandeep (Kar), 3. Deepak (Del) & Vinayak (Mah); **72kg:** 1. Ankit Gulia (SSCB), 2. Anuj (Del), 3. Vikas (RSPB) & Sameer (Mah); **77kg:** 1. Sajan Bhanwala, 2. Deepak (SSCB), 3. Chhagan Meena (Raj) & Karan (Del); **82kg:** 1. Rohit Dahiya (RSPB), 2. Sandeep (SSCB), 3. Rahul (Raj) & Neeraj (Del); **87kg:** 1. Sunil Kumar (RSPB), 2. Sushant (SSCB), 3. Dhareppa (Kar) & Sunny (Del); **97kg:** 1. Ravi (RSPB), 2. Narender Cheema (Pun), 3. Shailesh (Mah) & Sonu (SSCB); **130kg:** 1. Naveen (SSCB), 2. Parvesh (Har), 3. Tushar (Mah) & Sahil (Chd).

Women: 50kg: 1. Shivanee Pawar (M.P.), 2. Nirmala Devi (Har), 3. Neha (Mah) & Neelam (U.P.); **55kg:** 1. Anuj (RSPB), 2. Aarati (Har), 3. Manshi Yadav (U.P.) & Manpreet Kaur (Pun).

Santanu holds Vignesh; Leading seeds have it easy

NATL. CHESS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Barring a few draws, results followed expected lines in the opening round of the National chess championship on Thursday.

Top seed S.P. Sethuraman led the anticipated charge of those from the top-half of the starting list against the weaker opposition from the lower-half.

Second seed Abhijeet Gupta, Leon Mendonca, Shyam Sundar, Aronyak Ghosh, Koustav Chatterjee, last edition's third-ranked player P. Iniyan, Karthik Venkatraman and Swapnil Dhopade won as expected.

Santanu Borpatra swam against the current and held N. R. Vignesh in 44 moves.

Similarly, Sparsh Khandelwal played way over his rating of 1858 to hold Sayantan Das, rated 2475 in 47 moves.

Deepan Chakkravarthy's experience (2457) could not help him get more than a draw against Aarav Sinha (1854) in 54 moves.

Evaldo primed to deliver in feature

BENGALURU: Evaldo, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Ashoka Chakra Cup (1,800m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Friday (Dec. 23). False rails (width about 7m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 YAMUNA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 12-45 p.m.: 1. War Trail (2) B.L. Paswan 60, 2. Spirit Dancer (7) Darshan 58.5, 3. Dawn Rising (11) G. Vivek 58, 4. Phoenix Surprise (3) B. Dharshan 57.5, 5. Chandra Kanta (6) Tousif 57, 6. Commandpost (8) Kiran Rai 57, 7. Osibisa (1) P. Siddaraju 57, 8. Red Lucifer (5) Antony 57, 9. Praia Do Cassino (4) Likith Appu 56.5, 10. Perfect Halo (10) L.A. Rozario 56 and 11. Jai Vikram (9) Syed Imran 54.
1. DAWN RISING, 2. WAR TRAIL, 3. PERFECT HALO

2 KISAN DIVAS PLATE (DIV. III), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 1-15: 1. Aferpi (7) Kiran Rai 60, 2. George Everest (8) Zervan 60, 3. Galloping Ahead (9) Shreyas S 59, 4. Listen To Me (11) Trevor 59, 5. Capriati (3) Antony 58.5, 6. Empress Bella (1) M. Chandrashekar 58.5, 7. Oasis Class (2) Nazerul 58.5, 8. Solid Power (4) Salman K 58.5, 9. Singhsaab (5) R. Ajinkya 58, 10. Sunway Lagoon (6) Tousif 58 and 11. The Beginning (10) B.L. Paswan 57.5.
1. LISTEN TO ME, 2. THE BEGINNING, 3. CAPRIATI

3 KRISHNA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 1-45: 1. Golden Time (3) G. Vivek 60, 2. Dr Logan (5) Vaibhav 59.5, 3. Realia (1) Chethan K 59, 4. Embosom (4) L.A. Rozario 58, 5. Silver Swift (2) R. Ajinkya 58, 6. Stunning Beauty (9) Sai Kiran 58, 7. John Connor (6) Nazerul 56, 8. Thunderstruck (8) M. Chandrashekar 54 and 9. My Vision (7) R. Pradeep 53.5.
1. JOHN CONNOR, 2. GOLDEN TIME, 3. STUNNING BEAUTY

4 KISAN DIVAS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 2-15: 1. Southern Force (8) Akshay K 60, 2. Alcides Synergy (12) A. Imran 59.5, 3. High Opinion (9) B. Nayak 57.5, 4. Augusto (2) R. Pradeep 57, 5. Empire Of Dreams (1) R. Ajinkya 56, 6. King Of War (7) G. Vivek 56, 7. Opus One (4) L.A. Rozario 56, 8. Pazel (3) Darshan 56, 9. Raffles (5) Arshad 56, 10. Riveting (10) Shreyas S 56, 11. Limited Edition (6) Nazerul 54.5 and 12. The Strikingly (11) Sai Kiran 54.5.
1. ALCIDES SYNERGY, 2. KING OF WAR, 3. LIMITED EDITION

5 ABBEY FALLS PLATE (1,200m), maiden 2-y-o only, (Terms), 2-45: 1. Czar (6) Antony 56, 2. Fearless Joey (3) Vinod Shinde 56, 3. Fort Nelson (2) Srinath 56, 4. Julio (4) Trevor 56, 5. True Faith (5) Zervan 56, 6. Vivaldo (1) Akshay K 56 and 7. Crystal Snow (7) Darshan 54.5.
1. JULIO, 2. CZAR

6 KRISHNA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 3-15: 1. Osiris (7) M. Chandrashekar 62, 2. Four Wheel Drive (1) A. Imran 61.5, 3. Katana (4) Srinath 61.5, 4. Tyto Alba (5) Kiran Rai 60, 5. See My Heels (3) M. Prabhakaran 59.5, 6. The Strength (2) Sai Kiran 59.5, 7. Classic Charm (8) I. Chisty 58, 8. Ozark (9) R. Ajinkya 56.5 and 9. Brooklyn Supreme (6) Arshad 51.5.
1. KATANA, 2. FOUR WHEEL DRIVE, 3. THE STRENGTH

7 Y.S. SURENDER MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 3-45: 1. Capable (10) P. Siddaraju 62.5, 2. Cool Rider (8) Srinath 58.5, 3. Eternal Princess (4) Vinod Shinde 58, 4. The Inheritor (6) Sai Kiran 55.5, 5. General Patton (5) Nazerul 55, 6. Super Gladiator (7) L.A. Rozario 54, 7. Devils Magic (1) Indrajeet S 53.5, 8. Millbrook (9) Antony 53.5, 9. Lauterbrunnen (2) Kiran Rai 52 and 10. Benediction (3) Shreyas S 51.5.
1. COOL RIDER, 2. ETERNAL PRINCESS, 3. THE INHERITOR

8 ASHOKA CHAKRA CUP (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-15: 1. Evaldo (3) Akshay K 62, 2. Faith Of Success (4) I. Chisty 60.5, 3. Kensington (1) Antony 59, 4. Automatic (5) Trevor 56 and 5. Shubankar (2) Srinath 56.
1. EVALDO, 2. KENSINGTON

9 KISAN DIVAS PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-45: 1. La Reina (8) Vinod Shinde 61, 2. Measure Of Time (4) Rayan 60, 3. Nikolina (9) Antony 60, 4. Rhapsody In Green (7) A. Imran 59, 5. Sociable (2) Trevor 58.5, 6. The Golden Dream (10) Sai Kiran 58, 7. Klockner (1) Srinath 57.5, 8. Czarevitch (5) Darshan 57, 9. Recreator (11) Salman K 57, 10. Balor (3) R. Ajinkya 56.5 and 11. Je Ne Sais Quoi (6) Shreyas S 56.5.
1. SOCIABLE, 2. NIKOLINA, 3. BALOR

10 YAMUNA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-15: 1. Dallas Drifter (9) Tousif 62.5, 2. Emeraldo (7) Vaibhav 62.5, 3. The Sound Of Music (4) P. Siddaraju 62.5, 4. First Royalist (5) Naveen K 61.5, 5. Air Display (6) Likith Appu 61, 6. By The Book (8) Arshad 60, 7. Sky Princess (3) Chethan K 60, 8. Apollo Light (1) Jagadeesh 59.5, 9. Elite Agent (11) Kiran Rai 59.5, 10. Marco Polo (2) R. Ajinkya 59.5 and 11. Activated (10) L.A. Rozario 57.
1. ACTIVATED, 2. SKY PRINCESS, 3. MARCO POLO
Day's best: **COOL RIDER**
Double: **EVALDO – SOCIABLE**
Jkt: 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7; (iii): 8, 9 and 10.

Abhay claims his sixth PSA Challenger tour title

Sports Bureau

India's Abhay Singh, seeded two, clinched his sixth PSA Challenger tour title with a hard-fought 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-7 win over the top-seed Zahed Salem of Egypt in the men's final of the Daly College & SquashXtreme SRFI Open 2022 in Indore on Thursday.

Abhay is the only player on the PSA world circuit to have won six titles.

In the women's final, India's Tanvi Khanna lost to Menna Hamed of Egypt 5-11, 11-6, 11-13, 11-9, 10-12.

Nikhat and Manju enter quarterfinals

BOXING

Sports Bureau
BHOPAL

Reigning World champion Nikhat Zareen and 2019 Worlds silver medallist Manju Rani recorded commanding victories to enter the quarterfinals in their respective weight categories on the third day of the National women's boxing on Thursday.

Nikhat, representing Telangana, out-punched Meghalaya's Eva Waynie Marbaniang in a 50kg pre-quarterfinals bout.

Railways' Manju defeated Uttarakhand's Kavita comprehensively in a last-16 bout in 48kg.

Jyoti Gulia, a 2017 World youth champion, made the 52kg quarterfinals after getting a unanimous verdict against Jharkhand's Neha Tantubai.

Superlative performance: Nikhat outpunched Marbaniang in a 50kg pre-quarterfinals bout. A.M. FARUQUI

Important results (preliminary rounds):
48kg: Manju Rani (RSPB) bt Kavita (Utk) 5-0, Nikita (Har) bt Yashika Rai (Sik) 4-1; **50kg**: Nikhat Zareen (Tel) bt Eva Wayne Marbaniang (Meg) 5-0, Tanniksha Chawar (Goa) bt Ayushi Awasthi (MP) 4-3; **52kg**: Jyoti Gulia (RSPB) bt Neha Tantubai (Jha) 5-0, Sonia (UP) bt Manit (Pun) 5-2, Sakshi Choudhary (SSCB) bt Sandhya Kanojia (Del) RSC-R3; **54kg**: M. Dhivya (TN) bt Muni Leya (Aru) 5-0, Divya Pawar (MP) bt Monika (Chd) 5-0; **57kg**: Vinakshi (HP) bt Neha (Raj) 5-0, Mandeep Kaur (Pun) bt Sneha Gupta (Jha) 5-0, Nirmal (Nag) bt Minaxi Bhanushali (Guj) 4-0.

60kg: Simranjit Kaur (Pun) bt Pooja Behra (Jha) RSC-R2, Renu (Chd) bt Menka Thakur (MP) 4-3, Poonam (RSPB) bt Greetta Saji (Ker) 5-0; **63kg**: Mahi Lamba (MP) bt Sakshi Bisht (Utk) 5-0, Niharika Gonella (Tel) bt Siwi (Har) 4-1, Shashi Chopra (RSPB) bt Shiwani Kumari (Jha) 5-0, Rekha Tewatia (AIP) bt Tanvi Kaushal (Del) 5-0; **70kg**: Jyoti (RSPB) bt Ruchita Rajpoot (Guj) 5-2, Kusum (Har) bt Shretima Thakur (HP) 5-0.

81kg: M. Sribhavana (TN) bt Akansha (Del) 4-0, Sushma (AIP) bt Kanishka (UP) 5-0; **+81kg**: Nupur (RSPB) bt Sneha Singh (Del) RSC-R2, Saara Qureshi (Tel) bt Roshini (Kar) 5-0.

BACK IN THE SWING

Unadkat ends the longest wait by an Indian cricketer

Left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat returned to the Test fold after missing 118 games. Unadkat made his Test debut against South Africa at Centurion on Dec. 16, 2020. In between, he missed more than a century of Tests, the second highest in world cricket. Only England's Gareth Batty (142) has missed more.

ANXIOUS WAIT

Sam Curran hopes to fetch a good price at the auction

England all-rounder Sam Curran is hoping to get a good deal in the IPL auction on Friday, but said being in the same "bracket" as someone like Ben Stokes and a few others might affect his chances. Curran, whose base price is ₹2 crore, and the 24-year-old said he will be keenly following the action on television.

THE BUZZ

England's 18-year-old leggie Rehan likely to earn an IPL contract

Teenage rising star Rehan Ahmed could take another step in his rapid ascent through the ranks of world cricket by earning an IPL contract. The 18-year-old leg-spinner became England's youngest men's Test cricketer when he made his debut in the series finale in Pakistan recently. Rehan is one of 27 English players in the fray.

GAYLE'S PREDICTION

'Mayank will definitely get picked, he's such an explosive player'

Chris Gayle expects a big payday for Mayank Agarwal at the auction on Friday. "Mayank will definitely get picked. I would be very disappointed if he doesn't because he is such an explosive player. I hope the teams still believe in him and give him good money. He is a fantastic team man as well," said Gayle.

Mominul fights, but Bangladesh capitulates for 227

Umesh and Ashwin register four-wicket hauls and Unadkat, who returns to the Test arena after 12 years, picks up two; India, in reply, finishes day one on 19 without loss

Key scalp: Umesh nails Bangladesh skipper Shakib, caught by Pujara. AP

INDIA IN BANGLADESH

N. Sudarshan
MIRPUR

Bangladesh was propped up by a gutsy, back-to-the-wall half-century by Mominul Haque (84, 157b, 12x4, 1x6) as it made 227 first-innings runs on day one of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium here. In reply, India was 19 for no loss at stumps.

Chanceless knock

The former Bangladesh captain, who was not picked for the Chattogram Test, hadn't reached double-digit figures in nine straight innings. But he came up with a chanceless knock, but for one thick edge off R. Ashwin that flew between Rishabh Pant and Virat Kohli at first slip early on.

Mominul kept it tight, mostly clipping and guiding deliveries bowled on his legs for runs.

As time wore on, he turned less risk-averse, lifting Jaydev Unadkat – who replaced Kuldeep Yadav in an eyebrow-raising move – over the cordon and cutting him to the point fence to reach his fifty.

He danced down the track to Ashwin and went inside-out, before clubbing the offie for a six over wide long-on to move into the 80s.

Carrom ball does it

But Ashwin eventually had his measure when Mominul shouldered arms to a carrom ball and the red cherry brushed the glove and nestled in Pant's hands.

Bangladesh could have prospered a bit more if not for its lead batters' now infamous tardiness.

After electing to bat, openers Najmul Hossain and Zakir Hasan held the Indian bowlers at bay for more than an hour, only for the middle-order to undo all the good work.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan spooned a catch to the mid-off fielder off Umesh Yadav (15-4-25-4) first ball after lunch, while Litton Das (25, 26b, 2x4, 1x6) couldn't keep a lazy flick off Ashwin down and was caught at short mid-wicket.

Mehidy Hasan, in fine batting form of late, tried to cut Umesh when there was no room and edged behind the wicket.

The innings' first breakthrough was however provided by Unadkat, who snared first-Test century-maker Zakir for his maiden Test wicket.

Unadkat had played his only other Test way back in Dec. 2010 even before Kohli made his debut.

Nagging line

He bowled a nagging line and repeatedly got the ball to rise awkwardly.

Zakir was out to one such delivery which rose and ballooned off the glove to K.L. Rahul at fourth slip.

He also ended the dogged Mushfiqur Rahim's resistance (26, 46b, 5x4), squaring him up and having him caught behind.

The circumstances surrounding Unadkat's selection may not have been ideal, but the 31-year-old acquitted himself rather well.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH — 1ST INNINGS

Najmul Hossain lbw b Ashwin 24 *(57b, 3x4)*, Zakir Hasan c Rahul b Unadkat 15 *(34b, 1x4)*, Mominul Haque c Pant b Ashwin 84 *(157b, 12x4, 1x6)*, Shakib Al Hasan c Pujara b Umesh 16 *(39b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Mushfiqur Rahim c Pant b Unadkat 26 *(46b, 5x4)*, Litton Das c Rahul b Ashwin 25 *(26b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Mehidy Hasan c Pant b Umesh 15 *(51b, 3x4)*, Nurul Hasan lbw b Umesh 6 *(13b)*, Taskin Ahmed c Siraj b Umesh 1 *(16b)*, Taijul Islam (not out) 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Khaled Ahmed c Unadkat b Ashwin 0 *(2b)*; Extras (b-3, lb-7, w-1): 11; Total (in 73.5 overs): 227.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-39 (Zakir, 14.5 overs), 2-39 (Najmul, 15.2), 3-82 (Shakib, 28.1), 4-130 (Mushfiqur, 40.6), 5-172 (Litton, 48.5), 6-213 (Mehidy, 66.3), 7-219 (Nurul, 68.4), 8-223 (Taskin, 72.4), 9-227 (Mominul, 73.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 9-1-39-0, Umesh 15-4-25-4, Unadkat 16-2-50-2, Ashwin 21.5-3-71-4, Axar 12-3-32-0.

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

K.L. Rahul (batting) 3 *(30b)*, Shubman Gill (batting) 14 *(20b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (nb-2): 2; Total (for no loss in 8 overs): 19.

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Taskin 4-2-8-0, Shakib 4-2-11-0.

Toss: Bangladesh.

Leaving out Kuldeep a 'hard decision', says Rahul

N. Sudarshan
MIRPUR

Tough luck: Kuldeep didn't make the playing XI despite bagging the player-of-the-match award in the first Test. AP

It's not the first time Kuldeep Yadav has not made the playing XI after claiming a five-wicket haul. But the left-arm unorthodox spinner's non-inclusion for the second Test against Bangladesh here, after a player-of-the-match performance in the opening match, is the most surprising one yet.

At the toss, skipper K.L. Rahul called it a "hard decision" on Kuldeep. He termed the wicket a "confusing pitch" and said he didn't know what to make of it. Left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat was included "to cover all bases," leaving R. Ashwin and Axar Patel as the two specialist spinners.

But Bangladesh seems to have read the wicket differently, going in with three spinners. "We might not have read the wicket very well (Mirpur) but we also didn't read Kuldeep very well (in Chattogram)," said James Siddons, Bangladesh batting coach.

Bangladesh surprised

"We are surprised that he didn't play. I think it has been a pretty flat wicket for the fast bowlers. It is turning and bouncing for the spinners so [it's] harder against them. Ashwin got some unbelievable bounce and spin."

"We hope that our decision to play spinners is a good one. Having said that, Umesh [Yadav] got four wickets and [Jaydev] Unadkat got two."

It's probable that India might have wanted a third seamer because of the unusual grass cover on the pitch and the foggy winter mornings. It may also be that with the wicket offering more purchase than in Chattogram, finger spinners in Ashwin and Axar would prove adequate. And the two are also better batters. But what message does this send to Kuldeep?

"It's part of the journey and has happened to me also," Umesh Yadav said in the post-match briefing. "This is a team-management call. It's good that he came back and did well in the previous match."

"It's a 50-50 wicket. The odd ball is kicking from back of length, and if you bowl full it is not swinging or doing anything. Ashwin bowled with the new ball and some of them turned. But not so much with the softer ball. It's doing things in parts. It's not fully [in favour] of the pacers or spinners."

IPL 2023 auction: a maximum of 87 slots up for grabs

Amol Karhadkar
KOCHI

The bugle for the 2023 edition of the Indian Premier League will be sounded with the 16th Player Auction on Friday.

Here's all that you want to know about cricket's Moneyball:

How many slots are up for grabs and how much can the teams spend?

Every team has a cap of 25 players, including eight overseas cricketers.

After the transfer window and player retention, a maximum of 87 slots are up for grab.

Of them, up to 30 can be foreigners. It is estimated that around 75 players will eventually go under the hammer.

The cumulative purse available for all the franchises is ₹206.50 crore. While Sunrisers Hyderabad will enter with a maximum purse of ₹42.25 crore, Kolkata Knight Riders (₹7.05 crore) has the least amount available at its disposal.

How many players will feature in the auction?

After the initial registration of almost 1,000 cricketers across the globe, the list has been trimmed to 405 cricketers, including 273 Indians.

But not everyone's name will be put up for the auction.

How will the auction work then?

Each of the first 86 names, divided over the first 13 sets, will be read out by auctioneer Hugh Edmeades.

Then on, depending on the remaining slots and purse available, the accelerated auction will begin.

Each franchise will be asked to submit 10 players' names and only those names will be read out along with those from the unsold list from the first 86. If required, there will be a second round of accelerated auction.

Have the incremental bids been decided?

The BCCI, in a communication shared with franchises, has spelt out the following incremental bids process:

Bids upto ₹1 crore: Increments of ₹5 lakh

Bids from ₹1 crore up to ₹2 crore: Increments of ₹10 lakh

Bids from ₹2 crore up to ₹3 crore: Increments of ₹20 lakh

Bids above ₹3 crore: Increments at the auctioneer's discretion, but not less than ₹20 lakh.

What if a franchise exhausts its purse while bidding for a player?

In an unlikely scenario when a team exhausts its purse, the IPL authorities have made arrangements of a tie-breaker through secret bids.

The winner of the secret bid will be determined with the highest bidder in a written form.

While the player will be paid the amount equivalent to the last matching bid, the additional proceeds will go to the IPL coffers.

The auction starts at 2.30 p.m.

Hot properties

As the auction table is set, a look at some of the players who could rake in the big bucks on Friday.

Ben Stokes (England)
Base price: ₹2 crore
Having already emerged as the most expensive buy at an IPL auction twice in succession - 2017 and 2018 - the allrounder is set to do it for a third time. With two teams looking at a virtual overhaul and having a fat purse at their disposal, Stokes could well be stoked by the price he goes for

Sam Curran (England)
Base price: 2 crore
The southpaw was in red-hot form at the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia, walking away with the Player of the Series award. He couldn't have asked for a better re-entry into the IPL after opting out last year. Don't be surprised if Curran ends up with a nine-figure price tag

Cameron Green (Australia)
Base price: 1.5 crore
All the detailed scouting and analytics aside, there's recency bias at auctions. His sensational performances during Australia's T20I series in India in October will make him one of the most sought-after allrounders

Harry Brook (England)
Base price: 2 crore
Brook has had an exceptional year across formats and multiple teams' search for a reliable top-order player will put him on the radar

Mayank Agarwal (India)
Base price: 1 crore
The Karnataka opener, who was released by Punjab Kings after tasting limited success as a batter and captain, is in the running for being the highest-paid Indian at the auction this year

Jaydev Unadkat (India)
Base price: 50 lakh
The Saurashtra skipper and left-arm pacer has been known to go for big money at auctions and having made a Test comeback after 12 years, he could fetch a fat paycheck

LOCAL FLAVOUR

The domestic uncapped players who could make the headlines:

N. Jagadeesan (Tamil Nadu)
Base price: 20 lakh
After being released by CSK, he has been in the form of his life, smashing centuries at will. Since he can don the big gloves too, he could attract a high bid

Sanvir Singh (Punjab)
Base price: 20 lakh
Has a reputation for hitting balls out of the park and can also chip in with his accurate medium-pace

Vidwath Kaverappa (Karnataka)
Base price: 20 lakh
The pacer was one of the finds of the domestic limited-overs' season, his ability to swing the ball late making him a player to watch out for

THE TREASURE CHEST

	Money spent (₹)	Money available (₹)	Remaining slots	Overseas spots
CSK	74.55	20.45	7	2
DC	75.55	19.45	5	2
GT	75.75	19.25	7	3
KKR	87.95	7.05	11	3
LSG	71.65	23.35	10	4
MI	74.45	20.55	9	3
PBKS	62.8	32.20	9	3
RCB	86.25	8.75	7	2
RR	81.8	13.20	9	4
SRH	52.75	42.25	13	4
Total	743.5	206.5	87	30

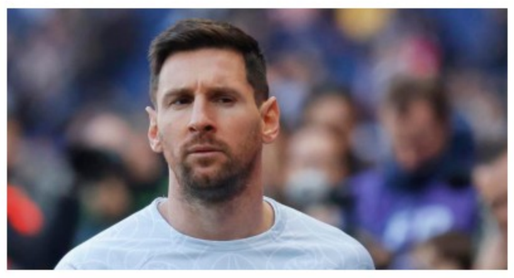
Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings are expected to be the major players in this year's auction.

Note: Amount in Crores

INBRIEF

Pele to spend Christmas in hospital as cancer worsens

Brazilian football legend Pele will spend Christmas in hospital, his medical team and family said on Wednesday, as he receives treatment for worsening cancer as well as kidney and heart problems. the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo said the 82-year-old required greater care related to renal and cardiac dysfunctions and a "progression" of his cancer.



Messi agrees to extend contract with PSG: reports

Lionel Messi will celebrate his World Cup triumph by agreeing to stay at Paris Saint-Germain, local media claimed on Wednesday. The 35-year-old, who led Argentina to victory in the World Cup final against France in Qatar last weekend, will pen a one-season extension to his current deal which expires in the summer.

Mumbai Kenkre beats Real Kashmir

Mumbai Kenkre FC recorded a 2-1 victory over Real Kashmir FC in the I-League in Mumbai on Thursday.

The results: Kenkre 2 (Gaikwad 24, Ahmed 90-p) bt Real Kashmir 1 (Justin 18); Sudeva Delhi 1 (Carlos 86) drew with Mohammedan Sporting (Abiola Dauda 90 +2).

RWF puts it across South India FC

RWF defeated South India FC 2-0 in the BDFA 'A' division league in Bengaluru.

The results: 'A' division: RWF FC 2 (L. Cyril 39, Melwin Emmanuel 60) bt South India FC 0; **'B' division:** Bangalore Warriors FC 1 (Mohammed Rayan 69) bt CIL FC 0.

Neymar and Marquinhos back to PSG training

Brazilians Neymar and Marquinhos reported to the Paris Saint-German's training centre on Thursday, according to PSG's social networks. They "are back at the Training Center!", the club tweeted, 13 days after Brazil's penalty shoot-out elimination against Croatia in the World Cup quarterfinals. On PSG's Instagram account, Marquinhos was seen performing various physical exercises but the club did not specify whether Neymar, who suffered a sprained ankle at the World Cup, was following an individual recovery programme.

PCB chairman Ramiz sacked after England drubbing

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja has been sacked just days after the national team suffered a humiliating Test series defeat to England, according to a government notice on Thursday. England wrapped up the third Test on Tuesday to hand Pakistan a first-ever 3-0 home series whitewash. But a change had been on the cards since April, when Imran Khan – a former national captain – was ousted as Prime Minister and replaced by Shehbaz Sharif.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs India: 2nd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9 a.m.

IPL 2023 Auction: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 2.30 p.m. onwards

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Karnataka makes short work of hapless Pondicherry

Kaverappa, Ronit and Vyshak do the damage as the visitors lose seven wickets for 69 runs in the morning session of the third day to hand the home team an innings win

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The Karnataka pace attack ran through the Pondicherry batting to take the home team to an innings victory in the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C outing here on Thursday.

Resuming on 58 for three, Pondicherry needed another 75 runs to make Karnataka bat again. The visitors were not up to the task, losing seven wickets for 69 runs in the morning session of the third day to concede defeat.

Vidwath Kaverappa (2/44), Ronit More (4/36) and Vyshak Vijayakumar (3/23) did the damage.

After taking three points in the opening encounter against Services, Karnataka gained the full quota of points here. Pondicherry, meanwhile, fell to a second consecutive defeat.

Karnataka head coach P.V. Shashikanth was happy with the performance of the fast bowlers. He made special mention of Kaverappa, who took six wickets in the match. "Kaverappa has been a revelation. He was among the highest wicket-takers in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s and Vijay Hazare tournaments. Now he is continuing his red hot form in four-day matches. Kaverappa is the future," Shashikanth said.

The team was keen to push for an outright win, Shashikanth said. "We made it clear that we will go for full points. Against minnows, we want the full seven points. We wanted to bat four sessions and make 450 runs," he said.

Batters Vishal Onat and Nikin Jose, both playing their second First Class match, must be given a long rope to realise their full potential, Shashikanth said.

Also, spinner Shreyas Gopal got to bowl only two overs in the match because the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch assisted speedsters. "Shreyas is very much in the scheme of things. When a match goes to the fourth innings on the fourth day, he will come good," Shashikanth said.

Standout performer: Samarth was chosen Player-of-the-match for his century. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The scores:
Pondicherry — 1st innings: 170.
Karnataka — 1st innings: 304
Pondicherry — 2nd innings: Neyan Kangayan c Sharath b Vyshak 24, K. Aravind c Shreyas b More 1, Jay Pande b Kaverappa 26, Paras Dogra lbw b Gowtham 3, S. Ashwath b Kaverappa 8, D. Rohit c Shreyas b More 18, Arun Karthick c Sharath b Vyshak 10, Ankit Sharma c Pandey b More 25, M. Viknesh c Sharath b Vyshak 4, Sagar Udeshi c Onat b More 5, Abin Mathew (not out) 0; Extras (lb-3): 3; Total (in 43 overs): 127.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-41, 3-48, 4-64, 5-65, 6-85, 7-111, 8-122, 9-127.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 13-6-44-2, More 14-6-36-4, Vyshak 10-3-23-3, Gowtham 6-1-21-1.
MoM: R. Samarth.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES (ROUND TWO, DAY THREE)

Elite: Group-A: At Sovima: Uttar Pradesh 551/4 decl. bt Nagaland 136 & 185 in 55.4 overs (Shrikant Mundhe 98). **Points: UP 7 (7), Nagaland 0 (0).**
At Kolkata: Bengal 310 & 291/5 decl. in 74 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 101, Manoj Tiwary 50) vs. Himachal Pradesh 130 & 79/1 in 25 overs (Prashant Chopra 44 batting).
At Dehradun: Odisha 213 & 97/4 in 34 overs (Anurag Sarangi 59 batting) vs. Uttarakhand 477 in 143 overs (Jiwanjot Singh 218, Swapnil Singh 65, Aditya Tare 57).
At Vadodara: Baroda 615 vs. Haryana 278 in 66.2 overs (Chaitanya Bishnoi 44, Ankit Kumar 43, Nishant Sindhu 110) & 148/2 in 43 overs (Yuvraj Singh 54 batting, Ankit Kumar 55).
Group-B: At Guwahati: Delhi 439 vs. Assam 435/8 in 128 overs (Rishav Das 160, Gokul Sharma 140, Mukhtar Hussain 40 batting).
At Rajkot: Maharashtra 493 in 181.4 overs (Akshay Palkar 56) vs. Saurashtra 254/4 in 72 overs (Harvik Desai 78, Sheldon Jackson 81, Samarth Vyas 42 batting).
At Coimbatore: Andhra 297 & 162/5 in 53 overs (Ricky Bhui 62 batting) vs. Tamil Nadu 345 in 112.1 overs (Nitish Kumar Reddy 4/37).
At Mumbai: Mumbai 651/6 decl. bt Hyderabad 214 in 65.1 overs (Rohit Rayudu 77, Shams Mulani 7/94) & 220 in 67.2 overs (Rahul Buddhi 65, Shams Mulani 4/82, Tanush Kotian 5/82). **Points: Mumbai 7 (13), Hyderabad 0 (1).**
Group-C: At Jamshedpur: Jharkhand 386 vs. Goa 362 in 134.3 overs (Eknath Kerkar 73, Darshan Misal 71, Shahbaz Nadeem 4/86, Utkarsh Singh 4/71).
At Delhi: Services 213 & 145/4 in 40 overs (Rahul Singh 71) vs. Chhattisgarh 389 in 130 overs (Amandeep Khare 125 batting, Ajay Mandal 114).
At Bengaluru: Pondicherry 170 & 127 in 43 overs (Ronit More 4/36) lost to Karnataka 304. **Points: Karnataka 7, Pondicherry 0.**
At Jaipur: Rajasthan 337 & 278/5 in 76 overs (Abhijeet Tomar 68, Deepak Hooda 106 batting, Kunal Singh Rathore 48 batting) vs. Kerala 306 in 82.5 overs (Sachin Baby 139 n.o., Aniket Choudhary 5/85).
Group-D: At Ahmedabad: Gujarat 307 & 11/1 in 2.5 overs bt Jammu & Kashmir 135 & 182 in 58 overs (Henan Nazir 43, Vivrant Sharma 41, Siddharth Desai 8/66). **Points: Gujarat 6 (7), J&K 0 (0).**
At Nagpur: Vidarbha 264 & 348/6 in 79 overs (Ganesh Satish 142 batting, Akshay Wadkar 88) vs. Tripura 299 in 95.3 overs (Yash Thakur 5/44, Aditya Sarwate 4/86).
At Delhi (day one): Railways 59/5 in 32 overs vs. Punjab; **Toss:** Punjab.
Plate: At Ahmedabad: Bihar 311 & 217/8 in 67 overs (Baljeet Singh Bihari 53, Bipin Saurabh 54) vs. Manipur 296 in 102 overs (L. Kishan Singha 65, Malay Raj 5/53).

Archer in ODI squad for South Africa series

Associated Press
LONDON

Fast bowler Jofra Archer will reappear for England after nearly two injury-interrupted years in a One-Day International series in South Africa next month.

Archer is in a 14-man squad for the three-match ODI tour of South Africa.

The three matches will be played in the space of six days from Jan. 27-Feb. 1.

The squad:

Jos Buttler (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Olly Stone, Reece Topley, David Willey and Chris Woakes.

Bengaluru FC will look to build on last week's positive result

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC (BFC) will look to build on last week's positive result (against Jamshedpur FC) as the side takes on Hyderabad FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday. BFC is placed eighth in the Indian Super League table with 10 points, while Hyderabad FC (22 points) enters the fixture in second place.

"I think we've mentioned it all season, that you have to learn from each win, loss and draw. There were certain aspects of last week's game that were pleasing and others that we need to work on. It's no coincidence that the three games we've won are all with clean sheets.

"If we can combine clean sheets, a positive attitude and be a little more ruthless, regardless of who we play, we feel we can beat anyone," said BFC head coach Simon Grayson here on Thursday.

BFC began its campaign with a victory over North-East United (1-0), but has since won just two fixtures in nine (1-0 against Jamshedpur FC and 2-0 against FC Goa) outings.

When BFC took on Hyderabad FC earlier in the season, the latter prevailed 1-0.

Hyderabad FC is in the middle of a good run, having recorded wins in the previous two matches. The defence has held strong and is expected to test the BFC strikers.

Karnataka HC stays FIR against Lakshya and his coach

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed criminal proceedings against badminton star and Arjuna award-winner Lakshya Sen and his coach U. Vimal Kumar on the allegation of age fabrication.

A vacation bench of Justice S. Rachaiah passed the interim order on the petition filed by the player and his coach, questioning legality of initiation of criminal proceedings against them.

The High Grounds police on Dec. 1 had registered the First Information Report acting on a direction issued by a magistrate court, which had ordered for investigation of the allegation made in the complaint lodged by one M.G. Nagaraja.

It has been alleged that Dhirendra K. Sen, who was a coach with Sports Authority of India (SAI), and his wife Nirmala Sen had fabricated the birth certificates of their sons, Lakshya Sen and Chirag Sen, who is also a badminton player, in connivance with Vimal Kumar, who was Lakshya's coach at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy and a Dronacharya awardee. All four Sens and Vimal Kumar have been named as accused persons in the FIR. However, the petitioners have claimed that false and baseless allegations made to humiliate them as Nagaraja's daughter was found not meeting the criteria to join Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in 2020.

It was also pointed out in the petition that the issue of age fabrication was closed as the Central Vigilance Commission in 2018 had accepted the birth records submitted by Dhirendra Sen and concluded that no action is required against him.

The petitioners have alleged that Nagaraja had not disclosed this aspect in his complaint.

Goa to host India's maiden WTT series event

Sports Bureau

The World Table Tennis (WTT) Star Contender will be held from February 27 to March 5 2023 at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Panaji, according to a press release on Thursday.

This is the first time a WTT series event, consisting of singles, doubles and mixed doubles, will be held in India.

Stupa Analytics, a homegrown sports analytics firm will be the tournament hosts, with active support from the Government of Goa.

New Zealand squad arrives in Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
KARACHI

The New Zealand cricket team returned to Pakistan on Thursday to play two Tests and three One-Day Internationals, a year after abandoning its tour over a security threat.

The Kiwis' arrival comes just days after England whitewashed Pakistan at home in a three-Test series that has seen the hosts' cricket board chief sacked.

The current 15-man New Zealand squad is led by veteran fast bowler Tim Southee and will begin the tour with the first Test in Karachi from Monday. The second Test is in Multan from January 3, followed by ODIs on January 10, 12 and 14 in Karachi.

Pakistan named a 16-man squad for the Test series on Wednesday, with a recall for fast bowler Hasan Ali. Shaheen Shah Afridi misses out with an injury.

The New Zealand squad: Tim Southee (Capt.), Michael Bracewell, Tom Blundell, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tickner, Neil Wagner, Kane Williamson and Will Young.

Mukesh Chetan's innovative surface is easy on the body and pocket

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

It is a special hard court that is easy on the body. It can be used both indoors and outdoors for a variety of games like badminton, basketball, squash, tennis and volleyball. The man – Mukesh Chetan – who has accomplished what the others have been trying for a long time is confident that the idea will revolutionise the sporting world.

Mukesh is an engineer by profession, an internationally qualified tennis coach and an entrepreneur who has laid synthetic hard courts and European clay courts in the country.

The 70-year-old explained that the special surface he has designed – after considerable research – will offer the best shock absorption compared to asphalt, cement and wood.

Mukesh with Vidhya, an inter-collegiate tennis champion.

"We made a half court of this surface and checked its efficiency for many months. The players were very happy as they did not get ankle or knee pain, which generally happens when they play on the synthetic surface for a long period," said Mukesh, who is based in Bengaluru.

Suggesting that it would cut cost dramatically, as compared to wood and synthetic surfaces, Mukesh, with a 20-year patent certificate from the government, says that the material can also be used for walking tracks, dance floor, roller skating, yoga, aerobic and gym floors.

"I remember an instance when the Australian Open organisers tried to use extra rubber cushion for the courts. Owing to high temperature during play, the melting surface resulted in many players getting stuck and twisting their ankles," recalled Mukesh.

The idea of half court for one surface fascinated him after he watched Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal playing on a court that had grass on one side and clay on the other, way back in 2007.

About his innovation, Mukesh said: "It is a healthy surface and cost effective. We are waiting for international patent. This surface can have a big and positive impact on world sports."